IOWA BIRD LIFE

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Note from the Editor

Karen Viste-Sparkman

With my first issue as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I've birded in Iowa since moving here in 2006. I attended my first I.O.U. meeting in 2007 and I've been involved in the organization ever since. I'm fortunate to be a professional wildlife biologist, which means that birds are part of my work (although I don't get to spend all my time at work birding!). My husband Stuart and I enjoy birding on our daily walks with our dog Harney as well as on trips around the state.



Figure 1. Karen Viste-Sparkman and Harney, Squirrel Hollow County Park, Greene, *22 April 2018. Photograph by Stuart Sparkman, Des Moines, IA.*

Stuart and I were featured in a "Meet Two Iowa Birders" article in *IBL* issue 86:2 so feel free to read that for more details about me.

I got into birding gradually, beginning as a child looking at birds I encountered and eventually going on my first outing specifically to look for birds when I was in my twenties. My "spark bird" was an American Coot, seen in a ditch on our family farm in Idaho when I was a teenager. Realizing this wasn't a "normal" duck, I sat and watched it for about half an hour, without binoculars, but at a distance of less than 10 feet at times, trying to memorize everything about it. In the past, I had tried to look up birds but often missed some key feature. It turns out that there was nothing even remotely close to a coot in the field guide, so I didn't need to spend quite so much time with it, but it was still an enjoyable and educational experience.

I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of the six previous editors of *IBL* who have served over the past 80 plus years. I hope to continue the tradition of preserving for posterity records and knowledge about the occurrence of birds in Iowa and the activities of the I.O.U. When I was first asked to consider taking the role of editor of *IBL*, my first reaction was, "Why me?" There are certainly many people with more experience with Iowa's birds and with editing. I initially declined, but after several more months of the publications committee searching for an editor with no success, I realized someone needed to take on the task. It was only after receiving sincere offers of assistance from several I.O.U. members that I finally felt that I could contribute in this way.

Cecille Thompson will serve as "assistant editor", an unofficial position whose

tasks are still being worked out, but will include photo editing and other technical aspects. Cecille moved to the U.S. from the Philippines as a child in the 60s. She describes herself as a birder by marriage. She worked for Wells Fargo for thirty years, where she met husband Dennis, an active birder and I.O.U. member, who taught her the difference between a Blue Jay and a bluebird. While Cecille doesn't actively seek out birds, she has gone on many trips with Dennis and enjoyed the birds, people, and adventures. Cecille is now retired and will play a big role in lightening my load.

I am also grateful to the continuing contributions of seasonal Field Reports editors, whose jobs are becoming more time consuming with additional field reports from the growing birding community and use of eBird to report sightings. Paul Hertzel continues as the fall editor, Francis Moore as the winter editor, and James Dinsmore as summer editor. Tyler Harms continues with spring reports and is now joined by Kevin Murphy as co-editor. Other regular contributors include James Dinsmore with the Fifty Years Ago column, and book review editor Bill Scheible. Paul Roisen and Ann Johnson have also been helping recruit articles. Additional help is always greatly appreciated, and of course authors of articles are needed. Paul Hertzel has volunteered to do layout of the journal, another huge task.

I am an advocate of citizen science, and I think we can all contribute to the knowledge of Iowa's birds. This issue illustrates the contributions of various experience levels, featuring articles by a beginning birder who found a state first bird coming to her feeders, a young birder who climbed a tree to band owls, and a biologist who analyzed data about museum specimens salvaged by dozens of people. There are also numerous contributors to the field reports section. While an individual's bird records might contribute to his or her personal knowledge, pooling our information will benefit all of us. Publishing this information in a journal helps future birders understand what changes have occurred—see the 50 Years Ago article.

The vast majority of Iowa's natural areas have been destroyed or severely altered by our society. The amazing thing about birds is that they are still able to find places to live and breed, even in this state. There is growing evidence on the benefits of contact with nature on our emotional and physical health. Those who seek nature are bound to find birds. Birds serve as one of the most visible connections to the natural world, and can be seen coming to bird feeders, singing from roadsides, and gathering in farm field sheetwater. Iowa's protected natural areas are brimming with bird diversity, including species that require larger areas of grasslands, wetlands, or forests. Birds are migrating through Iowa for more than half of the year. As much as we need birds, they need our protection even more. Understanding what is here and what is changing plays a big role in protecting birds. With the help of our membership and contributors, *IBL* will continue to inform, educate, and entertain. The content of *IBL* is all provided by volunteers. I encourage submissions of articles and photographs related to bird life in Iowa. I welcome ideas on ways to improve this publication to make it more relevant to today's birders. Please feel free to contact me with contributions, suggestions, and ideas.

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First Record of an Inca Dove for Iowa

Melissa Cory[1], *Ann M. Johnson*[2], *and Stephen J. Dinsmore*[3]

On 22 September 2016 the senior author noticed an unusual small dove at her feeders in Altoona, Polk County. Not recognizing the bird, she had a friend post a photo to a Facebook bird identification group where Johnson stumbled across it that evening. Contact was made and arrangements were finalized for a visit the following morning.



Figure 1. Inca Dove, Altoona, Polk, *23 September 2016. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

On 23 September, the bird finally made an appearance below the feeders in mid-morning. After some ground rules for visitation were established, other birders were notified of its presence. During the course of the next several hours a number of birders were able to view the bird as it regularly appeared on the ground below some seed feeders. It typically flew into the shrubs adjacent to the feeders, dropped to the ground to feed for up to several minutes at a time, and was often flushed by House Sparrows and other birds, only to reappear about 15 minutes later. Each time it walked slowly on the ground, feeding on discarded seed with House Sparrows. The head and body shape clearly identified the bird as a dove, and its small size (barely twice the mass of a House Sparrow) was evident. The dark bill was thin, straight, and very short (roughly equal to the distance between the eye and base of bill). The eye was reddish with a dark iris. The forehead, throat, upper breast, and vent were very pale brown and contrasted with a slightly darker brown-gray color on the mantle and remaining underparts. The entire body had a strong scaly appearance that was created by narrow black tips to the feathers. The folded primaries and rectrices were black. The bird was also rather long-tailed; we estimated that the tail was approximately two thirds the length of the body. The bird made several short, rapid flights during which we glimpsed the unfolded wings and tail. In flight, the primaries were mostly a dark rufous color with black tips and dark coverts. Similarly, the exposed tail revealed that the central rectrices were dark gray, contrasting with the black outer rectrices with broad white tips to the outer 2-3 feathers. The short legs

appeared dull pink or flesh colored. On the basis of the strikingly scaly appearance we concluded that the bird was most likely an adult Inca Dove.

The Inca Dove remained in the vicinity of the feeders until 5 p.m. on 23 September. Searches the next day failed to relocate the bird, and it was not seen again. This represents the first, and long overdue, record of an Inca Dove for Iowa. This species has a well-known pattern of dispersing north into the Great Plains and Midwest in fall with records from most states surrounding Iowa. As such, it was long predicted to occur in Iowa.

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Window Strike Mortality Records of Birds in Northeastern Iowa

Tex A. Sordahl[1]*, Dawn M. Reding, and Yifeng Zhang*[2]

ABSTRACT

Window collisions are thought to be the second most important anthropogenic cause of mortality for birds in the United States, after cats. We examined the records of dead birds salvaged opportunistically by the Sherman A. Hoslett Museum of Natural History at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, during the 36-year period 1981–2016. Of 808 bird records from Iowa in the collection, the most frequent mode of death was window strike, which accounted for 387 (47.9%) specimens. All of the Iowa window strike records were from the northeastern quarter of the state. Mortalities occurred in all 12 months of the year, with peaks that correspond to an April-May spring migration and a September-October fall migration. Window strikes were widespread taxonomically, with specimens representing 73 species from 32 families. Consistent with other studies in the Midwest, the six most frequent victims of window-kill, in order of frequency, were: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Dark-eyed Junco, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and White-throated Sparrow. There were significantly more males (59.7%) than females in our records, and 45.2% of the 73 species were short-distance migrants, 32.9% were long-distance migrants, and 21.9% were non-migratory. Forty-nine (67.1%) of the 73 species breed or potentially breed

in northeastern Iowa. To mitigate the danger of window collisions, people can take action to help birds perceive the barrier, place bird feeders strategically, and landscape so birds do not see appealing habitat reflected in windows.

INTRODUCTION

Widespread population declines of birds in the United States and elsewhere during the last few decades (Sauer et al. 2012, NABCI 2016), and projections that climate change will endanger over half of North American species by the end of this century (Nijhuis 2014, Langham et al. 2015), have caused ornithologists to look closely at sources of mortality, both natural and anthropogenic. It is not known whether mortality rates from natural causes (predation, parasitism, disease, competition, changes in food supply) have increased, decreased, or remained constant. However, anthropogenic mortality has undoubtedly increased along with increases in human populations and development. Anthropogenic causes of bird mortality include outdoor cats, collisions with structures (especially building windows, automobiles, communication towers, power lines, and wind turbines), and agricultural chemicals. Although it is difficult to obtain accurate data on how many bird deaths are caused by these factors (Loss et al. 2012), recent authoritative reviews ranked cats at the top (causing an estimated 2.4 billion bird deaths per year in the U.S.), followed by windows (599 million bird deaths), automobiles (200 million bird deaths), power line collisions (22.8 million bird deaths), communication towers (6.6 million deaths), power line electrocutions (5.6 million deaths), agricultural pesticides (2.7 million deaths), and wind turbines (0.2 million deaths) (Loss et al. 2014, Loss et al. 2015). Early estimates of annual mortality from collisions with windows were as high as one billion (Klem 1990, Erickson et al. 2005), and the upper range of recent data-driven estimates remains around one billion (Loss et al. 2015).

In the Midwest, a few studies have compiled data on bird mortality from window strikes. Klem (1989) collected 247 records of window-kills in southern Illinois during a 12-year study. He also conducted a survey of museum curators in the U.S. and Canada, and concluded that about 25% (225 species belonging to 42 families) of all species in North America are known to have struck windows. Hager et al. (2008) monitored five buildings on the Augustana College campus in northwestern Illinois and the Principia College campus in southwestern Illinois in a four-year study; bird mortality at windows totaled 215 individuals of 48 species. Borden et al. (2010), in a one-year study of bird strike mortality on the Cleveland State University campus in Ohio, recovered 271 dead birds of 50 species. Bracey et al. (2016) conducted a three-year study of window mortality and scavenging rates at residential houses along the shores of Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, recording 108 individuals of 40 species.

Given this context, we wondered which species are most frequently killed by windows in our own area in northeastern Iowa. To address this question, we examined the records of window-killed birds in the Sherman A. Hoslett Museum of Natural History at Luther College. A more thorough understanding of the bird-window collision

phenomenon is an important step in developing strategies and products to mitigate this problem.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

The vertebrate collections of the Hoslett Museum are cataloged in program Specify (Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS). The Hoslett Museum has records for 1,161 bird specimens. Of those, 808 (69.6%) were salvaged in Iowa. Of the Iowa specimens, 387 (47.9%) died by window strike and 132 (16.3%) were road kills. There was no cause of death recorded for 174 (21.5%) of the Iowa specimens and an additional 88 (10.9%) were simply listed as found dead. Other recorded modes of death include 20 shot with a gun (these were donated by licensed hunters), three caught by cat, three caught accidentally in mouse traps, one electrocuted, and, remarkably, one (a Downy Woodpecker) that died when accidentally struck by a thrown baseball.

Iowa window-strike bird specimens in the Hoslett Museum were salvaged from

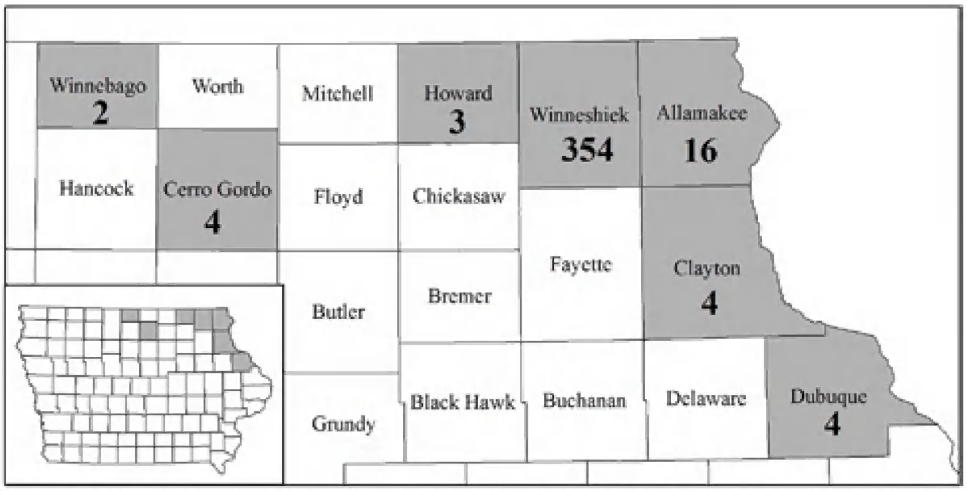


Figure 1. Map of Iowa showing the number of window-killed bird records for each county, 1981–2016.

seven counties located in the northeastern quarter of the state (Figure 1). Most are from Winneshiek County (354; 91.5%). About half (179; 50.6%) of the Winneshiek County window-strike specimens are from the Luther College campus in Decorah.

An average of 10.8 (range = 0 in 1983 to 26 in 1993) Iowa window-strike specimens were collected each year during the 36 years of this study (1981–2016). The 387 Iowa window-strike specimens were salvaged by 123 individual people. Ninety-six (24.8%) were salvaged by the first author of this paper. Three other people recovered 20 or more birds, 21 people recovered 3–10 birds, 16 people recovered two birds, and 82 people recovered one bird. Most of the specimens were prepared as scientific study skins and became part of the teaching or research collections in the Hoslett Museum

at Luther College.

To investigate whether migrants were more frequent window-kills than residents, we categorized the window-kill species in our study into short-distance migrants, long-distance migrants, or non-migratory resident species. We determined the wintering and summering range of each species, and its breeding and migratory status in northeastern Iowa by consulting standard references (Jackson et al. 1996, Kent and Dinsmore 1996, American Ornithologists' Union 1998, Sibley 2000). Species whose primary wintering range is in the United States or northern Mexico (i.e., the Nearctic region) were considered short-distance migrants. Species whose primary wintering range is in the West Indies, Central America, or South America (i.e., the Neotropical region) were considered long-distance migrants. We considered other species to be non-migratory residents.

Taxonomy used in this paper follows the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist (1998 and Supplements published in *The Auk* through 2017).

RESULTS

The total number of window-killed birds in each month ranged from eight in July to 103 in May, across the 36-year period of our study. The distribution of monthly mortalities over the year is bimodal, with peaks that correspond to an April-May spring migration and a September-October fall migration, and with a slight dip during the

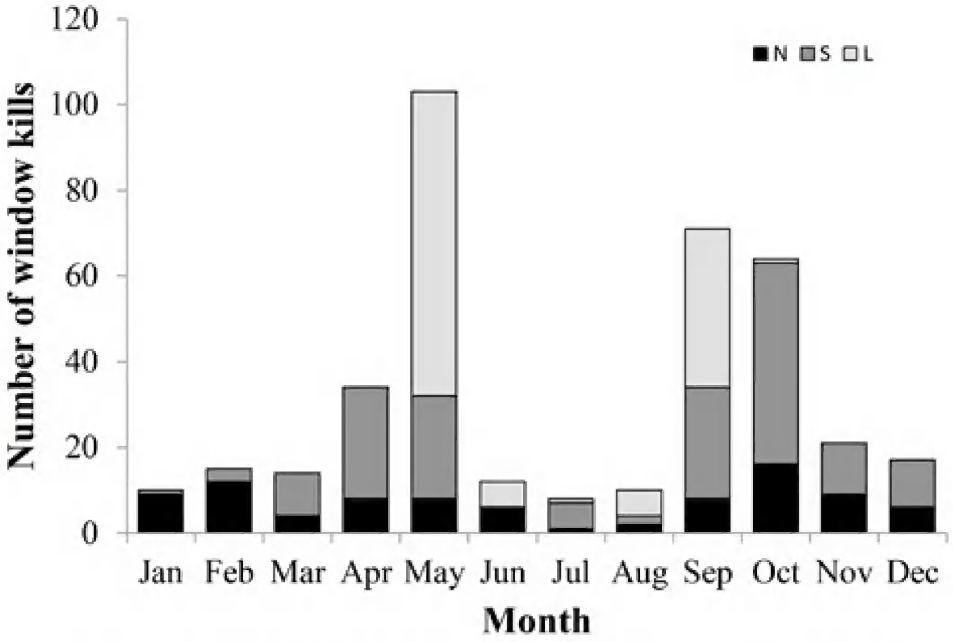


Figure 2. The distribution of 387 window-killed bird records from northeastern Iowa by month, 1981–2016, and migration status: non-migrant (N–black bars), short-distance migrant (S–dark gray bars), long-distance migrant (L–light gray bars).

summer breeding period (Figure 2).

We examined window-strike mortality records for 73 species (Table 1). The most frequent victim of window-kill was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird with 36 specimens, followed by 12 other species with 10 or more specimens: Dark-eyed Junco, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Cardinal, Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-throated Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, American Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, Gray Catbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Cedar Waxwing, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Perhaps the most remarkable records are of large species — Ruffed Grouse (8 records), Barred Owl (2 records), American Coot (1 record) — that could potentially break the window. In fact, one of the Ruffed Grouse window-kill records contains the annotation "flew through window."

The 73 species in our window-kill records represent 32 families. Eight families had >18 window-strike mortalities: Trochilidae, Accipitridae, Picidae, Turdidae, Fringillidae, Passerellidae, Parulidae, and Cardinalidae (Table 2).

Overall in our study, there were 213 males, 144 females, and 30 birds of unknown sex (Table 1). Of the 357 specimens of known sex, 59.7% were males and 40.3% were females, a statistically significant difference ($\chi^2 = 13.34$, df = 1, $P = 0.00026$).

Of the 73 window-kill species from Iowa, 33 (45.2%) were short-distance migrants, 24 (32.9%) were long-distance migrants, and 16 (21.9%) were non-migratory residents (Table 1). Forty-nine (67.1%) of the 73 species breed or potentially breed in northeastern Iowa (Table 1).

Of the 387 window-kill specimens from Iowa, 170 (43.9%) were short-distance migrants, 125 (32.3%) were long-distance migrants, and 92 (23.8%) were non-migratory residents (Table 1). Non-migrants struck windows in all months of the year. Short-distance migrants struck windows nearly year-round, but mostly during migration months (April/May and September/October) when they would have been more abundant. Long-distance migrants struck windows mostly during the peak migration months of May and September (Figure 2).

DISCUSSION

The specimens in this study were salvaged opportunistically over a 36-year period. No attempt was made to standardize search effort, as would be done in a controlled scientific study. However, despite potential biases in data collection, the data presented in this paper exhibit patterns that are consistent with existing literature. The likelihood of a specimen becoming part of our database depends on four factors: (1) the probability of that bird striking a window, (2) the probability of death for a bird striking the window, (3) the probability of detection of the dead bird by a human observer, and (4) the probability of the observer deciding to salvage the bird.

The vulnerability of birds to window strike depends on their abundance and their use of habitats near windows. Our results show bimodal peaks of window mortality during the year, with a spring total of 137 salvaged during April and May, and a fall total of 135 salvaged during September and October. Spring and fall migration are times

Table 1. List of 73 bird species recorded as window-kill specimens, arranged by frequency. Also shown are the breeding (*potentially breeds) and migration status of each species in northeastern Iowa, and the numbers of each sex.

Species	Breeding Status (yes/no)	Migration Status (Short/ Long/Non-migrant)	Sex			Grand Total
			Female	Male	Unknown	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	y	L	18	18		36
Dark-eyed Junco	n	S	7	10	4	21
Tennessee Warbler	n	L	5	10	5	20
Northern Cardinal	y	N	11	7		18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	y*	S	11	7		18
White-throated Sparrow	n	S	6	7	5	18
Common Yellowthroat	y	S	7	7	1	15
American Goldfinch	y	N	2	10	1	13
Indigo Bunting	y	L	4	8		12
Gray Catbird	y	S	6	5		11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	y	S	4	6	1	11
Cedar Waxwing	y	N	2	6	2	10
Golden-crowned Kinglet	n	S	4	6		10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	y	N	5	2	2	9
Swainson's Thrush	n	L	4	2	3	9
Yellow-rumped Warbler	n	S	2	7		9
Ovenbird	y	L	2	4	2	8
Ruffed Grouse	y	N	4	4		8
Downy Woodpecker	y	N	2	5		7
Purple Finch	n	S	2	5		7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	y	L	2	5		7
Black-capped Chickadee	y	N	2	4		6
Hermit Thrush	n	S	1	5		6
American Robin	y	S	1	3	1	5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	y	L	1	4		5
Cape May Warbler	n	L	1	3		4
House Sparrow	y	N		4		4
Northern Flicker	y	S		4		4
Northern Waterthrush	n	L	2	2		4
White-breasted Nuthatch	y	N	1	3		4
American Redstart	y	L		3		3
American Tree Sparrow	n	S	1	2		3
Common Grackle	y	S	2	1		3
Hairy Woodpecker	y	N	2	1		3
Nashville Warbler	n	S	1	2		3
Palm Warbler	n	S	2	1		3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	n	S		3		3
Song Sparrow	y	S	1	2		3
Barred Owl	y	N		1	1	2
Brown Creeper	y*	N		2		2
European Starling	y	N	2			2
House Finch	y	N	1		1	2
Magnolia Warbler	n	L	1	1		2
Mourning Dove	y	S	1	1		2
Orange-crowned Warbler	n	S	1	1		2
Red-eyed Vireo	y	L		2		2
Wood Thrush	y	L		2		2
American Coot	y	S	1			1
American Kestrel	y	N		1		1
American Woodcock	y	S			1	1
Baltimore Oriole	y	L		1		1
Barn Swallow	y	L		1		1
Black-billed Cuckoo	y	L	1			1

Table 1 continued

Species	Breeding Status (yes/no)	Migration Status (Short/ Long/Non-migrant)	Sex			Grand Total
			Female	Male	Unknown	
Blackpoll Warbler	n	L		1		1
Blue Jay	y	N		1		1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	y	S		1		1
Blue-winged Warbler	y	L		1		1
Brown Thrasher	y	S		1		1
Canada Warbler	n	L		1		1
Chipping Sparrow	y	S	1			1
Common Nighthawk	y	L		1		1
Cooper's Hawk	y	S	1			1
Eastern Phoebe	y	S	1			1
Fox Sparrow	n	S	1			1
Golden-winged Warbler	n	L		1		1
House Wren	y	S	1			1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	n	S		1		1
Northern Shrike	n	S	1			1
Philadelphia Vireo	n	L		1		1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	n	S	1			1
Sora	y	S	1			1
Willow Flycatcher	y	L		1		1
Yellow Warbler	y	L		1		1
Totals			**144**	**213**	**30**	**387**

when birds are on the move and their populations are high. Many small birds migrate at night and are attracted to lights in or around windows where they are vulnerable to collisions. Migrants comprised 78.1% of the species and 76.2% of all window mortalities in our study. Other studies, too, have reported migration peaks in window kills (Hager et al. 2008, Borden et al. 2010, Loss et al. 2015). Klem (1989) found a reduction in window strikes during summer breeding, but otherwise no marked seasonal differences. Our data, too, show a slight reduction during the summer months (June, July, and August). This might be due, as Klem (1989) suggested, to bird movements being more restricted to breeding territories in the summer. In addition, warm summer temperatures promote decomposition, and specimens in poor condition are less likely to be salvaged.

Our sample contained significantly more males than females, suggesting either that males are more likely than females to fly into windows or they are more likely to be salvaged than females. Klem (1989) found no differences between the sexes in strike frequency.

The probability of death upon striking a window is probably determined by the size and speed of the bird, and the angle at which it hits the window. Large birds may hit with greater force, but may also be able to absorb more shock than a small bird. A direct hit would be more harmful than a glancing strike. However, as our findings demonstrate, birds of many sizes die from striking windows. Klem (1990) found no

difference in mortality rates for two arbitrary weight classes. His observations overall showed that about one of every two bird-window collisions results in death.

The probability of detection of a window strike by a person is determined in part by the size and conspicuousness of the bird. Larger birds make a louder sound when they hit a window, which is more likely to be investigated by the listener. Larger birds are also more likely to be noticed when lying on the ground. Similarly, brightly colored birds are more likely to be noticed.

Another factor that influences which specimens are salvaged is the non-human scavengers that pick up many birds that have been stunned or killed at windows. In our area, common scavengers include: American Crows, cats (*Felis catus*), dogs (Canis *familiaris*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), northern raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), eastern gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*), thirteen-lined ground squirrels (*Spermophilus tridecemlineatus*), and birds of prey. These scavengers probably exert an unknown selective bias.

There is considerable overlap of window-killed species between our study and other studies in the Midwest. Klem (1989) compiled a list of 20 species most frequently cited as window strikes in the U.S. and Canada from a survey of 125 museum curators. Nineteen (95%) of those 20 species were also recorded in our study. Hager et al. (2008) listed 69 species as window-kills in their study in Illinois. We recorded 49 (71%) of those 69 species in our study. Borden et al. (2010) listed 50 species in their study of window mortality in Ohio. We recorded 36 (72%) of those 50 species in our study.

Some species experience a disproportionately high risk of window strike mortality and appear frequently on these lists. Loss et al. (2014) quantified the vulnerability of species by calculating risk values. Their list of the 20 most vulnerable U.S. species

Table 2. List of 32 families represented by 387 window-kill records from northeastern Iowa, arranged in standard checklist order.

Family	Number of window kills
Phasianidae	8
Columbidae	2
Cuculidae	6
Caprimulgidae	1
Trochilidae	36
Rallidae	2
Scolopacidae	1
Accipitridae	19
Strigidae	3
Picidae	34
Falconidae	1
Tyrannidae	2
Laniidae	1
Vireonidae	3
Corvidae	1
Hirundinidae	1
Paridae	6
Sittidae	5
Certhiidae	2
Troglodytidae	1
Polioptilidae	1
Regulidae	13
Turdidae	22
Mimidae	12
Sturnidae	2
Bombycillidae	10
Passeridae	4
Fringillidae	22
Passerellidae	47
Icteridae	4
Parulidae	78
Cardinalidae	37

across all building types includes nine species on our window mortality list. In order of risk, they are: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Golden-winged Warbler, Brown Creeper, Ovenbird, Canada Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray Catbird, American Woodcock, and Common Yellowthroat. A taxonomic effect on window vulnerability was also noted by Borden et al. (2010) and by Arnold and Zink (2011), who dubbed highly vulnerable groups like wood-warblers "super colliders" and low vulnerability groups like swallows "super avoiders."

Window strikes are so widespread taxonomically among birds that if a species' lifestyle gives it opportunity for collision with glass, it will probably do so (Klem 1989). Windows are relatively non-selective bird killers. Even so, the frequency of window strike varies widely (Table 1). It is unclear why hummingbirds are so vulnerable to windows, but possible risk factors include their fast flight, rapid acceleration, and aggressive nature. It isn't surprising that Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows are high on our list. Both are abundant seasonally and are common at bird feeders. The same can be said for several other high-frequency window-strikers in our area: Northern Cardinal, American Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At first glance it seems surprising that a predator like the Sharp-shinned Hawk is tied for fourth most frequent window-kill. However, their habit of hunting small birds at feeders exposes them to windows (other small bird-hunters like kestrels and shrikes may be similarly at risk). A window strike by a hawk is also highly likely to be reported for salvage.

A variety of interacting factors must be considered to explain strike frequency at any particular site. Klem (1989) concluded that birds do not perceive clear or reflective glass as a barrier, and that wherever birds co-occur with such glass, they are vulnerable to collisions. Given the large number of birds that die from such collisions, many people have studied ways to reduce the risk (Klem 1990). Helping birds perceive the barrier is a logical approach. However, people like to see nature just outside their windows, and they like large windows. Covering windows with screens or netting is effective, but it obscures the view. Commercially available silhouettes of falcons or owls are ineffective unless applied in sufficient numbers to also obscure the view (Klem 1990). Accordingly, a "green design" industry has developed that produces "bird-friendly" building glass and related products like films and decals (Cirino 2016). The most promising strategies take advantage of the fact that birds can see UV light reflected from windows, and people cannot (e.g., "window alerts" in Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop 2017). Any factor that increases the density of birds near windows will increase strike frequency. The recent "Audubon Guide to Bird Feeding" brochure (written by Stephen W. Kress) recommends locating bird feeders either less than 3 feet or more than 30 feet from a window to reduce collisions, a recommendation supported by Klem's (1990) research.

Our study demonstrates that a wide range of bird species is susceptible to window strike in northeastern Iowa, supplementing other studies from around the country. There has been a growing awareness of the bird-window collision problem among

conservationists and the general public. Many people take precautions to make their windows more visible to birds. Green building designs now include bird-friendly glass. There will likely be bird-window collisions as long as there are birds and windows, but there is good evidence that collisions can be minimized with research and planning.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the 123 people who recovered window-strike birds over 36 years, and those who reported bird deaths from other causes. These contributors helped build a museum collection for educational and scientific purposes. The resulting database enabled us to look for patterns in anthropogenic mortality, a topic of increasing interest in the modern conservation biology era. The Hoslett Museum is authorized to salvage birds under Iowa DNR Permit SC765 and USFWS Permit MB114015-0.

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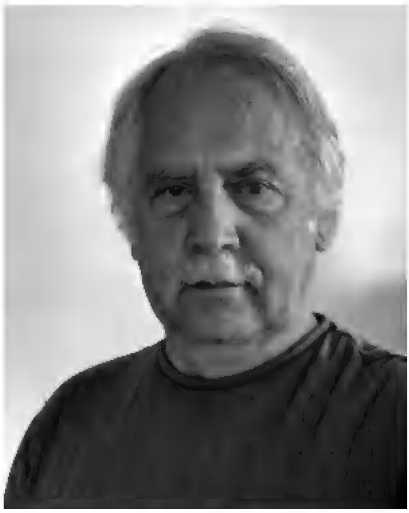
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Field Reports – Fall 2016

Paul Hertzel

WEATHER

In 2016, the average temperature in the contiguous United States was almost 3°F above the 20th century average. This was the second-warmest year nationally, only behind 2012, and marks the 20th consecutive year that the annual average temperature was above the 20th century average. The average minimum (low) temperature was 43.1°F, the warmest on record.



Paul Hertzel

The fall season in the contiguous U.S. was the warmest on record, for the second consecutive year. The season produced an average temperature of 57.6°F, which was 4.1°F above the 20th century average. Record warmth stretched across eight states, including: New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

In Iowa, 2016 was the 5th-warmest year on record, and produced the 2nd-warmest fall season. Temperatures for the three meteorological fall months of September, October, and November averaged 55.8°F or 5.6°F above normal, making it 2nd-warmest only to the fall of 1931. Precipitation was above average, but less so than the temperature extremes. Fall precipitation totaled 9.74 inches or 1.71 inches more than normal, making 2016 the 27th-wettest fall among 144 years of Iowa records.

During August, temperatures were erratic, but ultimately produced an average only slightly above normal. Nowhere in Iowa did the thermometer break 100 degrees. Precipitation was frequent and sometimes heavy during the month, especially in the eastern half of the state. Decorah recorded its 2nd-highest August rainfall totals in 131 years of record-keeping. Statewide, it was the 14th-wettest August on record.

In September, above-average precipitation continued and was accompanied not so much by record warmth as by a lack of cold. Particularly heavy rains occurred over multiple events during the period 9–23 September, especially in central and north-central Iowa. On the 23rd over 10 inches fell near Nora Springs in a single event, and the Shell Rock River set a record flood crest 1.15 feet higher than the old record set in 2008. Seven cities in the northern half of the state set new records for September rainfall totals, and at Decorah and Charles City, record annual totals were achieved with 3 months still remaining in the year. Steady warmth persisted through most of the

month with no frost recorded anywhere. The lowest temperature documented in the state during the month, 38°F, was the highest minimum September temperature ever recorded. Overall, it was the 15th-warmest and 13th-wettest September in the 144 years of state records.

In October, the pattern of above normal temperatures continued with the warmest October since 2007. Although the season's first freeze was recorded on the 7th at Little Sioux, much of the east and southeast parts of the state continued to be frost-free through the end of the month. Precipitation decreased in October with a slightly drier than normal weather pattern over most of the state. It was the 23rd-warmest and 70th-driest October on record.

November 2016 was the 2nd-warmest on record nationally, and also the 2nd-warmest in Iowa. Only November 2001 was warmer in Iowa. Across the state, temperatures averaged 8.3°F above normal, with record high temperatures set on the 17th at Donnellson, Mount Pleasant, Muscatine, and Ottumwa. On the 19th, Keokuk finally recorded its first freeze. Only in 1944 has a later first freeze occurred in Iowa (24 November). Precipitation was slightly below normal for most of the month. There was one noteworthy snow event in the extreme northwest in Lyon County on the 18th, but otherwise snowfall was minimal and the season ended with the 11th-lowest November snow total on record.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Except for a single, inexplicable, record-early Ross's Goose, the waterfowl migration was rather normal, although slow and drawn out. Most Blue-winged Teal left in September, but a few surprising concentrations persisted in October and even into a mild November. The gathering of Tundra Swans and Canvasbacks along the Mississippi River occurred on time and built to the usual impressive numbers which then held on through a November almost devoid of frost. Scoters arrived in record numbers this fall with both Surf and Black scoters setting new season total marks. Eleven Long-tailed Ducks were the most since 2005, apparently making up for last year when none were found in the fall. In the last week of November, when the huge flocks of Snow Geese began to appear in the skies over the Missouri River valley, there were still nearly 4000 Green-winged Teal at DeSoto NWR.

Many wetlands retained water late due to a very wet first half of the season. For some birds, this made habitat difficult early but better late, especially with a mild November. Three Cattle Egrets in Johnson County and 6 Stilt Sandpipers in Hancock County all were record late. A lone American Avocet at Red Rock Reservoir was 2nd-latest, a White-faced Ibis in Scott County was 3rd-latest, 6 Forster's Terns at Spirit Lake were 3rd-latest, and a Yellow Rail was 3rd-latest in Sioux County. Also found in late November were 5 Dunlin, 4 Least Sandpiper, 2 Long-billed Dowitcher, and 1 Lesser Yellowlegs. Other noteworthy shorebirds on the season were a single Whimbrel in September in Jackson County, a single Piping Plover in August at Saylorville Reservoir, and a 2nd-earliest Red Phalarope on 5 August. Also 2nd-earliest was a Black-

legged Kittiwake at Lake Macbride in Johnson County.

Several hawk species were found in reduced numbers over their long-term averages. At the Hitchcock Nature Center hawk watch in the Loess Hills of western Iowa, Sharp-shinned Hawks set a record low for the season total. The 566 counted was only 60% of the historical annual average. This is peculiar since Hawk Ridge hawk watch in northern Minnesota posted Sharp-shinned Hawk totals 40% above their 26-year average. The 68 Swainson's Hawks counted at Hitchcock was only the second time the hawk watch has recorded fewer than 100 individuals. As recently as 2013 the season total for Swainson's Hawks was 3529. Red-tailed Hawks, which had declined for 6 straight years at Hitchcock, rebounded slightly, but remained under the long-term average. At the Grammer Grove hawk watch in Marshall County, Cooper's Hawks were recorded in near record-low numbers.

Barn Owls, which are monitored by the DNR, appear to be doing well in the state. Fall activity at three successful nests is noted here. Snowy Owls were recorded three times in late November, two of which needed assistance. Both Short-eared and Long-eared owls reappeared in the state in early November.

There were no record early dates set for passerines, but a Philadelphia Vireo was 2nd-earliest on 5 August in Scott County. A sighting of American Pipits in Dallas County was 3rd-earliest on 14 August, and a Black-throated Blue Warbler on 24 August was also 3rd-earliest. Four species not recorded in every fall, Townsend's Solitaire, Bohemian Waxwing, Sprague's Pipit, and Lark Bunting, made single appearances. Many migrant sparrows took their time arriving in Iowa this fall, perhaps because the weather was so mild. Harris's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco all arrived well beyond the median arrival date, as did both Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs. A Northern Parula lingered to the 3rd-latest date of 23 October, and the usually early-departing Hooded Warbler left a representative on the 2nd-latest date of 18 September. Record late was a Blue-winged Warbler on 4 October, and a Blue Grosbeak on 20 October.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Iowa's first documented Inca Dove appeared in Melissa Cory's Altoona yard on 22 September and was enjoyed by many thanks to a timely Facebook post. Other accidental species recorded were a Black Rail found by Chuck Fuller; Iowa's fourth record of Arctic Tern found by Lee Schoenewe and Joe Jungers; two Swallow-tailed Kites, one found in eastern Iowa by Tom Billerbeck and the other found in extreme western Iowa by Bethany Thornton; and a Lark Bunting found by Danny Akers. Also documented this fall were eight instances of six casual species. Aaron Brees found a California Gull and also a Little Gull; a second sighting of Little Gull was recorded by Steve Dinsmore, who also found a Red Phalarope; Jim Forde photographed a lone Glossy Ibis; two Rufous Hummingbirds made appearances at residential feeders, one in Glidden and another in North Liberty; and a Sprague's Pipit was found by Aaron Brees.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: A = area, INHS = Illinois Natural History Survey, L = lake, M = marsh, m.ob. = many observers, NC = nature center, NM = national monument, NWR = national wildlife refuge, P = park, R = river, RA = recreation area, Res = reservoir, SF = state forest, Sl = slough, SP = state park, USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WA = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Isolated singles were in Mason City on 4 Aug (RG), and in rural *Woodbury* on 17 Sep (GLV). The first migrant groups were 310 in *Emmet* and 100 in *Pottawattamie* on 15 Oct (DA, JT, GLV). Some peak counts were 4700 on 22 Oct, the most since 2008, and 1150 on 10 Nov, both in *Pottawattamie* (JT), and 2780 on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE).

Snow Goose: After a few isolated singles were found over summer [Dinsmore 2016] and into August, the first group was 160 on 13 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (JT). The largest concentrations were also seen from Hitchcock when 20,955 were estimated on 19 Nov and 54,586 on 30 Nov (JT). In the east, the high counts were 2000 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MHB) and 940 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) on 27 Nov.

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 15 Sep at Maskunky M *Mahaska* matched the earliest date on record (JF), 1 on 1 Nov at Welch L *Dickinson* (POR), 2 on 27 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 12 on 27 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and at least 42 on 30 Nov at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (JT).

Cackling Goose: The first 18 were reported 24 Oct at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* (AB). Small groups of 1–25 were reported across the state until the end of the season, usually in association with migrant Canada Geese (AB, BCC, DAk, JB, POR, PS, RLC).

Canada Goose: The migrant race *B.c. interior* appeared in Mason City in late October (PH).

Mute Swan: An individual reported in summer at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* [Dinsmore 2016] continued into November (eBird). Two others were at Littlefield RA *Audubon* 23 Aug–9 Oct (DAk, AB).

Trumpeter Swan: Very widely reported in small groups across the state, merging into larger concentrations by November. As many as 75 could be found foraging together in rural *Cerro Gordo* by the end of the month (BVL, CJF, RG).

Tundra Swan: The first report of migrants along the Mississippi R was 14 on 27 Oct in *Clayton*, followed by 37 on 28 Oct in *Allamakee* (BR).

Wood Duck: The most was 455 on 27 Oct at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). Reports of lingering birds continued through November in *Adams*, *Linn*, *Polk*, and *Sioux* (RLC, POR, BCC, AB, JJ).

Gadwall: The first significant migrant group was 750 on 6 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). At the same location, AB estimated 1700 on 22 Oct. 1510 on 18 Oct at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* grew to 2000 by 1 Nov (INHS). Other high counts in late October were 405 in *Emmet* (DAk) and 550 in *Allama-*

kee (BR). The last big concentration was 623 on 23 Nov at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

American Wigeon: 12 on 8 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* was the first migrant group (AB). Peak counts occurred 19 Oct with 124 in the vicinity of Pool 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR) and 169 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS), and 14 Nov with 200 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS). Other noteworthy counts were 50 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 18 Oct (INHS), 26 on 23 Oct in *Emmet* (DAk), and 40 on 23 Nov in *Allamakee* (BR). The last were 2 on 25 Nov at Saylorville (RLC).

American Black Duck: The first few were 2 on 28 Oct in *Allamakee* (BR), 1 on 3 Nov in Mason City (BVL), and 1 on 7 Nov at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (MP). As the season progressed, the high count was 12 on 17 Nov in *Allamakee* (BSc, LGR).

Blue-winged Teal: Before the typical early departure, at least 3200 gathered at Saylorville Res *Polk* 13 Sep (RLC) and another 1100 were counted at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS). 1050 still lingered at Saylorville 7 Oct (AB), but by November, reports were down to single digits, except 28 on 5 Nov at Marsh Farm wetland in *Dallas* (POR).

Northern Shoveler: The first large group was 66 on 21 Oct in *Emmet* (DAk). The most was about 1000 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 1–14 Nov (INHS).

Northern Pintail: The first group of 15 was reported 6 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), followed by 40 on 10 Sep at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (Jessica Bolser). From 400–700 persisted at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* 19 Oct–23 Nov (USFWS). The largest gathering was 5000 on 18 Oct at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS) which still held 2000 on 29 Nov. At Saylorville, the peak was 320 on 22 Oct (AB), and 95 were still there on 4 Nov (JB).

Green-winged Teal: There were scattered early reports of small numbers, most notably, 2 at Forney L *Fremont* (Ross Silcock), 4 on 7 Sep at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (POR), and 40 on 10 Sep at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa*. Most numerous in the west, 1032 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* on 13 Oct increased to a peak of 3934 by 23 Nov (USFWS). In the east, 3000 were estimated at Port Louisa NWR18 Oct (INHS) a number that held through the end November. Another 510 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 27 Nov (AB).

Canvasback: On 19 Oct, the first large group was estimated to contain 4530 individuals by aerial survey in the vicinity of Pool 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR). By 27 Oct, numbers there increased to 20,015, and by 3 Nov to 29,615. The highest count was 31,500 in waters near Keokuk on 29 Nov (INHS).

Redhead: After successfully breeding at Dewey's Pasture WA *Clay* [Dinsmore 2016], 103 were counted there 30 Sep with no way to know how many were local. As others migrated into the state, as many as 385 were counted there on 3 Nov (DAk). Another 81 were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* as late as 15 Nov (DAk).

Ring-necked Duck: Following scattered summer sightings including a brood in *Clay* [Dinsmore 2016], the first migrant group was 60 on 10 Oct on the Mississippi R in *Allamakee* (BR). By 24 Oct, 1000 were at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa*, which then grew to about 10,000

by 29 Nov (INHS). Away from the river, some high counts were 270 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2–4 Nov (AB, RLC, DTh), and 424 on 23 Nov at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

Greater Scaup: The only reports came from Spirit L *Dickinson* – as many as 15 were observed during 16 Oct–26 Nov (LAS, POR, DAk).

Lesser Scaup: The first migrant group was 90 on 10 Oct along the Mississippi R *Allamakee* (BR). Aerial surveys along the river detected peak occurrences of 4501 in the vicinity of Pool 9 *Allamakee* on 19 Oct (WDNR), and 12,000 in both Iowa and Illinois waters 14 Nov (INHS). Away from the river, the high count was 615 on 11 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). 85 were still in *Palo Alto* on 29 Nov (DAk), and 18 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Nov (RLC).

Surf Scoter: At least 41 birds made this fall the most heavily reported that I can find on record. The first 3 were at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* on 17 Oct (BVL) followed by 4 on 19 Oct at Cedar L *Chickasaw* (BVL). Birds were found on and off at Clear L through 26 Nov with a peak of 9 on 29 Oct (BVL, RG, CJF, POR, DAk, BCC). Elsewhere, 8 occurred at Spirit L *Dickinson* on 6 Nov (LAS), as many as 7 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20 Oct–17 Nov (SJD, RLC, AB), and 1 or 2 were found in *Marion*, *Union*, *Dubuque*, *Tama,* and *Palo Alto* (SJD, DAS, RIA, PHA, MP, DAk).

White-winged Scoter: Approximately 15 birds were found at 5 locations. The first was a single individual on 20 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), where as many as 7 were found through 12 Nov (AB, BE). Up to 3 were found at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 27 Oct–27 Nov (BVL, RG, POR, CJF, DAk, BCC, JB), 3 were in *Black Hawk* 21 Nov (TGS), and singles were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 30 Oct (JF) and at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* 29 Nov (DTh).

Black Scoter: A total of at least 44 individuals was a record, well more than the 27 reported in the fall of 2007. Fall season totals have averaged 15 over the last 10 years. The most at one location was 18 counted on 12 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), where the first was found 24 Oct and at least 14 were still present on 27 Nov (BVL, RG, POR, DAk, BCC, JB). The first report of the season was 2 on 23 Oct at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB, DP). As many as 11 were counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2–24 Nov (AB, BE, JG, SJD, DAk). 1 or 2 were also found in *Black Hawk*, *Dickinson,* and *Johnson* (TGS, LAS, DAk, JF, BCC), and the last was a group of 4 on 29 Nov at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (DAk).

Long-tailed Duck: Eleven birds were the most since 2005. The first was 1 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6 Nov (SJD), followed by up to 4 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 26–30 Nov (CJF, BCC, BVL, RG, JB), 3 on 29 Nov at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB), and 3 on 29 Nov at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (DAk).

Bufflehead: The first report was 2 on 30 Sep along the Mississippi R in *Allamakee* (BR). Additional reports of small numbers continued through October in *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Dubuque*, *Emmet*, *Louisa,* and *Polk*. In November, peak numbers were 680 on 3 Nov in the vicinity of Pool 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR), 800 on 23 Nov in *Allamakee* (BR), and 1100 in Mississippi R waters off Fort Madison 29

Nov (INHS).

Common Goldeneye: First appeared 4 Nov at three different locations: 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB, RLC), 1 at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB), and 2 along the Mississippi R in *Allamakee* (BR). Peaked in late November with at least 5000 in Mississippi R waters off Fort Madison 29 Nov (INHS).

Hooded Merganser: Some high counts were 23 on 11 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC), 60 on 23 Nov on the Mississippi R *Allamakee* (BR), and 26 on 25–27 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS, AB, RLC).

Common Merganser: The first, and the most was 30 on 2 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* where as many as 19 were still present on 30 Nov (RLC). Small numbers were also reported in *Adams*, *Calhoun*, *Clay*, *Marion,* and *Polk*.

Red-breasted Merganser: The first was a group of 9 on 1 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB). The most was 66 counted from three locations at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 27 Nov (AB).

Ruddy Duck: The first report was 4 on 12 Aug at Forney L *Fremont* (Ross Silcock), an early date suggesting the species may have summered in the vicinity. Breeding had been confirmed in *Clay* (and *Hancock*), so it is not surprising that there also were August reports from *Clay* (KVS).The first large migrant group was 1200 on the Mississippi R near Keokuk 18 Oct (INHS). Away from the river, there were 233 on 21 Oct in *Emmet* (DAk), and 191 on 24 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH) which grew to 300 by 4 Nov (POR, AHB). The largest count was an aggregate of 7500 in both Iowa and Illinois waters of the Mississippi R 14 Nov (INHS).

Northern Bobwhite: DNR August Roadside Surveys averaged 1.61 birds per 30-mile route, slightly up from 2015. Except for a thin spread of birds up the Missouri River valley as far north as Sioux City, the natural population is stable only in the southern third of the state, although this summer saw an increase in reports north of there [Dinsmore 2016]. August family groups reported were 16 in *Adams* (Corey Lange) and 9 in *Appanoose* (RLC). Later, 12 were found in *Jasper* on 7 Oct (KVS).

Gray Partridge: In August, family groups of 12 in *Palo Alto* and 18 in *Winnebago* were reported (JN, DAk) and later from 1–9 were reported from *Butler*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Woodbury,* and *Worth*. DNR August Roadside Surveys averaged 2.66 birds per 30-mile route, slightly down from 2015. In general, detection of this species is reliable only in certain broad areas of the northern two-thirds of the state. The highest concentrations in the most recent Roadside Survey occurred in *Cherokee* and *Humboldt*.

Ruffed Grouse: No reports.

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: 40 birds from Nebraska were released in 2016 near Kellerton *Ringgold* in the continuing efforts to strengthen the genetic diversity of the reintroduced population there (KK). Several sightings of strays in northern *Ringgold* and nearby are assumed to be from this population.

Pied-billed Grebe: At Trumbull L *Clay*, 210 on 12 Sep was the largest group MHB has seen. Widespread and steady reports held on through the last day of the season – 5 still at Saylorville Res *Polk* on

30 Nov (RLC).

Horned Grebe: The first was 1 on 6 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), followed by 3–5 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 8–17 Oct (PH, BVL). Some peaks were: at Red Rock Res *Marion*, 25 on 1 Nov (DTh), at Saylorville Res, 22 on 2 Nov (AB, DTh), at Spirit L *Dickinson*, 16 on 6 Nov (LAS), and at Rathbun L *Appanoose*, 12 on 16 Nov (TNJ). The last was 1 on 27 Nov at Saylorville Res (RLC).

Red-necked Grebe: After successfully breeding at Trumbull L *Clay* [Dinsmore 2016], 1 or 2 were seen through 30 Sep (JB, JG, KVS, DAk). The only other report was 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 20–27 Nov (SJD, AB, RLC).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 at Eagle L *Hancock* 8 Oct (LAS, PH), 1–4 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 13 Oct–5 Nov (RLC, DTh), and 1–2 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 3–19 Nov (DAk, LAS).

Western Grebe: Up to 11 were counted on 27 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* where they successfully nested (JB, KVS). Elsewhere, 1 was at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 22 Oct (RG, BVL), 1 was at Spirit L *Dickinson* 19 Nov (LAS), 1 was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 20–26 Nov (SJD), and 1 was seen on and off at Saylorville Res *Polk* during 24 Oct–30 Nov (m.ob.)

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reported from all parts of the state except the southeast. The most was 145 on 9 Oct at a feed lot in *Woodbury* (GLV).

INCA DOVE: Iowa's first record of Inca Dove was found by Melissa Cory under her Altoona *Polk* backyard feeders on 22 Sep. Photos appear to show an adult male. The bird was seen again the next day, but then disappeared. (*Melissa Cory, *AMJ, *BCC, *POR, *RIA, *SJD)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: The most was 3 at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* on 16 Aug (RG). Reported throughout August from wooded areas across the state, and continuing until about mid-September except for a late individual on 8 Oct at Ronald "Dick" Jordan Family WA *Story* (HZ).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Singles were found 3 Aug–8 Sep in *Bremer*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Johnson*, *Linn,* and *Polk* (BCC, DTh, JN, JF, KVS).

Common Nighthawk: The first large migrant group was 227 on 8 Sep in Cedar Rapids (BSc). A little later, MP counted 200 at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall*. The last was 1 on 8 Oct in Ledges SP *Boone* (HZ).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: The only report was one on 6 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (RG).

Chimney Swift: Some high counts were 150 on 24 Sep in Winterset *Madison* (SB), 350 on 5 Aug at Lock & Dam 15 *Scott* (Steven Freed), 200 on 9 Sep at Davenport (Frederick Ruckersfeldt). The last report was 4 on 17 Oct in Des Moines (JB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The last was one on 17 Oct in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Two were found in the state this fall. The first, at a backyard feeder in Glidden *Carroll* 26 Sep–12 Oct, was identified by expert Sheri Williamson as a female (*POR–photos, *AB–photos, *JG–photos, Diane Dentlinger). The second was first documented on 20 Nov at a rural home in *Johnson*, but had been in the vicinity for at least a month, according to the homeowners. On 15 Dec, the bird expired in

–4ºF temperatures and was taken to the University of Iowa by Brandon Caswell. According to Sheri Williamson, it was an adult female (*BC–photos, *MHB–photos, *LGR–photos, *CRE).



Rufous Hummingbird, specimen, 15 December 2016, Johnson. *Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

Yellow Rail: In early September multiple individuals were flushed during mowing in *Union* and *Decatur* (JRL). Another was found in wet CRP field in *Kossuth* 18 Oct (DAk), and a third was flushed by Joe Jungers while combining a *Sioux* field on 21 Oct (3rd-latest).

BLACK RAIL: While walking a wetland in rural *Louisa* on 21 Sep, Chuck Fuller was able to identify a lone bird in flight after it flushed from about 5 feet away (*CF).

KING RAIL: One found in July at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* continued at least through 28 Aug (JB, PDBS).

Virginia Rail: While staking out the *Palo Alto* King Rail, at least 5 were counted on 27 Aug (LGR, PDBS). The last was 1 at the same location the next day (KVS).

Sora: The most was 5 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 25 Sep (LGR). The last reports were 8, 9 Oct at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* and Sunken Grove *Pocahontas* (RLC, Dick Bierman).

Common Gallinule: Linda Rudolph counted 32 from at least 5 distinct families at Green Island WA *Jackson* 9 Aug. Also reported from Trumbull L *Clay* during the IOU Fall Meeting, and the last an immature in *Cerro Gordo* on 23 Sep (BLV).

American Coot: Away from the Mississippi R where as many as 20,000 were estimated near Keokuk in November (INHS), the large concentrations were 6000 at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* 30 Oct (JJ), 2150 at Dewey's Pasture *Clay* 3 Nov (DAk), 2130 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8 Oct (AB), 2000 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 16 Nov (LGR).

Sandhill Crane: Reported from 18 eastern and central counties. Some high counts were 44 on 17 Nov at Cone M *Louisa* (DCH), and 33 on 15 Oct at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MP). Reports continued through the end of the season.

WHOOPING CRANE: Banded juvenile 33–16 with VHF transmitter from the Wisconsin project and originally released in Juneau County, WI, spent about 2 weeks near Bellevue *Jackson* in mid-November (BCC, DAS, Heather Ray).

Black-necked Stilt: No reports.

American Avocet: Some noteworthy concentrations were 21 on 6 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 16 on 5 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TGS), and 15 on 6 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Additional reports came from *Dubuque*, *Linn*, *Johnson, Van Buren,* and *Woodbury*. The last was 1 on 13 Nov at Red Rock Res, a 2nd-latest date (SJD–photos).

Black-bellied Plover: The first was 1 at Otter Creek M *Tama* on 7 Aug (JF).

From 1–3 were also reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Johnson*, *Polk,* and the last on 20 Oct in *Osceola* (DAk).

American Golden-Plover: Although there were a couple of odd July records [Dinsmore 2016], no one found any in the month of August or the first 11 days of September. The first fall report was 7 at Blue Grass sod farm *Linn* on 12 Sep (JF). The most was 11 in rural *Boone* on 8 Oct (DCH). All other reports were singles in *Cerro Gordo*, *Hancock,* and *Johnson* with the last 1 on 20 Oct at Hawkeye WA (CRE, BVL, RG, BCC).

Semipalmated Plover: Began arriving in July [Dinsmore 2016] and peaked in early August with 25 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 6 Aug (AB). After that 1–8 were reported in *Woodbury*, *Polk,* and *Allamakee* until the last 3 on 10 Sep at Saylorville Res (GLV, DAk, KVS, RLC, BR, BCC).

Piping Plover: A single bird was seen at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 25 Aug (SJD).

Killdeer: The most was 250 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 3 Aug (BCC).

Upland Sandpiper: The most was 7 on 1 Aug in *Sioux* (JJ), and the last was 1 at the same location 10 Sep.

Whimbrel: The only report was 1 on 14 Sep at South Sabula Lake P *Jackson* (Tony Moline).

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 were photographed at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Aug (AB), 2 were at Sand Point *Johnson* on 13 Sep (JF), 3 were at L Macbride *Johnson* 28 Sep (JLF), and the last 1 was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 19 Oct (JF).

Ruddy Turnstone: The only reports came from Saylorville Res *Polk* where singles were observed 3–10 Sep (AB, JG, DAk, SJD, RLC).

Red Knot: No reports.

Stilt Sandpiper: The high count was up to 56 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4–9 Sep (RLC, AB). The last 6 were at a flooded field in eastern *Hancock,* lingering as late as 1 Nov, a record late date by a day (RG, CJF, POR, PH).

Sanderling: Reported from *Floyd*, *Harrison*, *Johnson*, *Linn*, *Marion*, *Polk*, and *Woodbury*, with the most 33 on 10 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, BCC). The last 1 was also at Saylorville on 25 Sep (AB).

Dunlin: The first was found 7 Sep at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (POR). The most was 15 on 15 Oct at Wendt Pond *Floyd* (BVL). A few birds stayed into November in *Hancock*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Marion*, and *Woodbury* with the last 5 on 26 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (Dan Watkins).

Baird's Sandpiper: There were scattered reports of very low numbers with the most 6 on 5 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). The last 2 were at a flooded field in eastern *Hancock* 25 Oct (RG).



Baird's Sandpiper, 5 September 2016, Jester Park, Polk. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Least Sandpiper: Reported in small numbers from across the state except at Saylorville Res *Polk* where 120 in August became 198 by 4 Sep (AB). Numbers decreased sharply in mid-September but a few stragglers held on through late November. The last was a group of 4 on 23 Nov at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (POR, MHB, LGR).

White-rumped Sandpiper: No reports.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: After 10 were found in July [Dinsmore 2016], the first August report was 1 on 11 Aug at a *Linn* sod farm (Susan Nixon). Also reported in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Osceola*, and *Woodbury* (DAk, CJF, BVL, JF, KVS, MP, LAS, BCC), with the last a group of 15 on 17 Sep at the dairy ponds at 280th and Eastland Avenue *Woodbury* (GLV).

Pectoral Sandpiper: The most was about 3200 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Aug (AB, RLC). Another 500 were scattered over three locations in *Dallas* on 13 Aug (AB, DTh, KVS), and smaller numbers were reported in twelve scattered counties. The last 2 were at a flooded field in eastern *Hancock* on 1 Nov (POR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Widely reported in small numbers with the most 40 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 9 Aug (BCC). After 9 Sep, no one reported more than 3. The last report was 2 on 8 Oct at the Forest City settling ponds *Hancock* (PH).

Western Sandpiper: The first was a molting adult on 5 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). A juvenile was found at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* on 26 Aug (JF), and a second juvenile was at Saylorville on 5 Sep (DTh, KVS, RIA, PHA, SJD).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Returned in mid-summer [Dinsmore 2016]. In August, this species was reported in very low numbers from only 3 locations – 6 at New L *Woodbury*, 1 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*, and up to 7 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BCC, DAk, RLC, POR, AB). The last was 1 at Saylorville on 27 Aug (RLC).

Long-billed Dowitcher: The first and most was a group of 5 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 4 Sep (AB). 1–3 were reported in late September at 3 locations in *Johnson* (BCC, MHB) with many follow-up reports until 30 Oct. The last 2 were very late on 21 Nov at a pond south of Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, RG).

Wilson's Snipe: Widely reported in low numbers except for 21 on 12 Nov at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), and up to 152 on 1 Nov at a flooded field in eastern *Hancock* (RG, POR) where 11 remained through 10 Nov (CJF).

American Woodcock: Betty Lucas nearly stepped on one at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* on 6 Aug. All others were 1 on 8 Oct at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (TNJ), 1 on 17 Oct at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 2 on 27 Oct at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (Doug Sheeley), 1 on 29 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* (CRE), and 2 on 3 Nov in *Decatur* (JRL).

Spotted Sandpiper: The last was a juvenile at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Nov (AB, SJD–photo).

Solitary Sandpiper: As many as 12 were counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Aug (DAk), otherwise from 1–4 were reported from 12 counties until the last 1 on 10 Oct at L Macbride SP *Johnson* (MHB).

Greater Yellowlegs: Some high counts were 32 on 4 Sep at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (Jessica Bolser), 19 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 19 Aug (AB), and 12 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 19 Oct (BCC). The last few were 4 at Pool Sl *Allamakee* on 29 Oct (BR) and 1 at Heron Bend Conservation A *Lee* on 2 Nov (JLF).

Willet: No reports.

Lesser Yellowlegs. The most was 70 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 5 Sep (KVS). Away from Saylorville, the most was 17 at Midway P *Woodbury* on 1 Aug (POR). The last was a lone bird in rural *Floyd* on 17 Nov (RG).

Wilson's Phalarope: One or two were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 6 Aug–9 Sep (AB, RLC, DAk). The only other report was 1 at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* 7 Sep (JF).

Red-necked Phalarope: After a very early arrival in July [Dinsmore 2016], the first August reports were 1 on 6 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and 5at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JG, SJD). From 1–6 were also reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Hancock*, *Mahaska,* and *Marion* (JF, CJF, RG, SJD), with the last 2 on 26 Sep in rural *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

RED PHALAROPE: An adult molting into basic plumage was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5, 6 Aug which was 2nd-earliest (*SJD–photo).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A 2nd-cycle individual was at L Macbride *Johnson* 10–13 Oct, a 2nd-earliest date (MHB, JF, BCC).

Sabine's Gull: The first was a juvenile on 5 Sep at Spirit L *Dickinson*, where 2 other juveniles were found 25 Sep and 1 Oct (DAk, LAS). At Red Rock Res *Marion*, 1 adult and 4 juveniles were present 15–24 Sep (SJD). Up to 3 at a time were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 17 Sep–8 Oct (BCC, KVS, AB, SJD, RIA, PHA). Single juveniles were at Davenport 17 Sep (JF), at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 24 Sep (TMH), and at L Macbride *Johnson* 26 Sep–15 Oct (JF, LGR, DP, MHB, BCC).

Bonaparte's Gull: Reports of 1 or 2 began in late September at Coralville Res *Johnson* and at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MHB, DTh, RLC). Reports increased across the state with numbers building to 60 at L Macbride *Johnson* on 1 Nov (MHB, BCC), 89 on 5 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (POR), and peaking there at 172 on 20 Nov (AB). A few were still being found in *Marion*, *Palo Alto,* and *Polk* at the close of the season (DAk, Dan Watkins).

LITTLE GULL: Two reports may have involved the same individual working its way through the Des Moines River Reservoir system. The first report was from Saylorville Res *Polk* on 3 Sep when a nervous juvenile was photographed from Jester P (*AB). It flew short distances repeatedly before disappearing in spite of searches by multiple birders. 12 days later, on 15 Sep, a juvenile was photographed at Red Rock Res *Marion* in the company of two Sabine's Gulls (*SJD).

Franklin's Gull: Numbers at Saylorville Res *Polk* went from 360 on 16 Sep to 3200 on 19 Sep to 10,850 on 28 Sep to 30,000 on 3 Oct (RLC, JB). On 1 Oct, Joe Jungers estimated 100,000 from near Marble Beach at Spirit L *Dickinson.* Other significant concentrations were 12,500 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 23 Sep (PH), 6800 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 9

Oct (AB), and in the east, 3500 at L Macbride *Johnson* 13 Oct (MHB).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts ranged from 2000–4000 at the larger bodies of water and along the Mississippi corridor.

CALIFORNIA GULL: A first-year individual was at Sandpiper Beach, Saylorville Res *Polk* on 25 Sep (*AB–photo).



California Gull, 25 September 2016, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk. *Photograph by Aaron Brees, Polk City, IA.*

Herring Gull: The first was in the far west at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds *Pottawattamie* 16 Aug (POR). The second was in the far east at Pool 15 along the Mississippi R *Scott* on 27 Aug (Susan Nixon).

Thayer's Gull: A single individual was found 30 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The first occurrences were two individuals at opposite ends of the state on 11 Sep. One was at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF) and the other an adult at Smiths Bay, West Okoboji L *Dickinson* that stayed through 23 Oct (LAS, DAk, POR). All others: 1 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 15–17 Sep (JF, TGS), 1 on the Mississippi R at Clinton



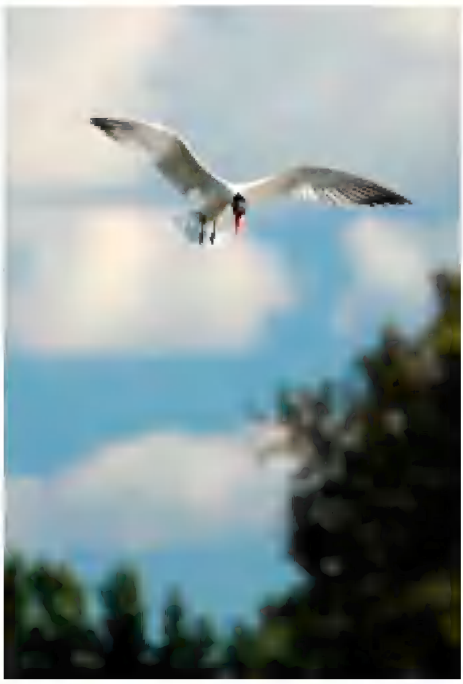
Black-legged Kittiwake, 13 October 2016, Lake Macbride, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Great Egret, 8 October 2016, Polk. *Photograph by Richard Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



Glossy Ibis, 18 October 2016, Hawkeye WA, Johnson. *Photograph by Jim Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.*



Caspian Tern, 10 September 2016, Polk. *Photograph by Richard Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



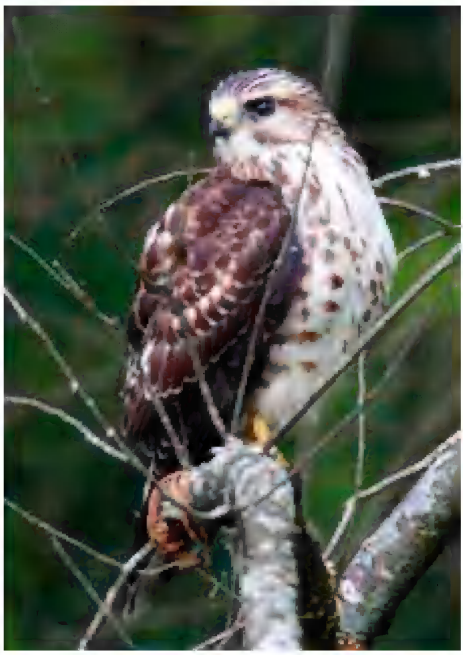
Swallow-tailed Kite, 26 August 2016, Hawkeye WA, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



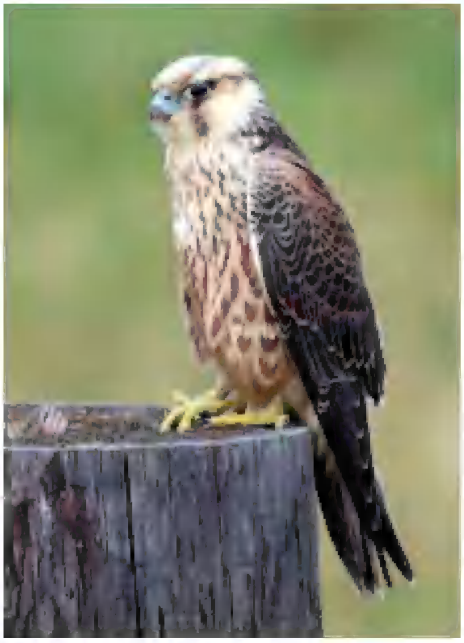
Ruddy Turnstone, 5 September 2016, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk. *Photograph by Stephen Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Northern Bobwhite, 11 August 2016, Hawkeye WA, Johnson. *Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Broad-winged Hawk, 28 September 2016, Johnson. *Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



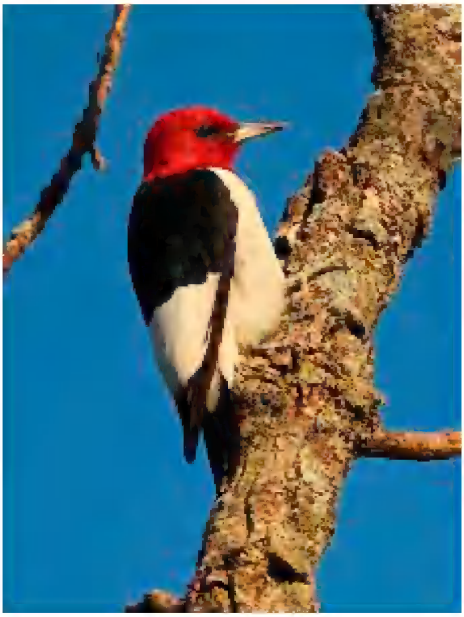
Merlin, 2 October 2016, Polk. *Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



3rd-latest Northern Parula, 23 October 2016, Lake Macbride, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Sedge Wren, 6 August 2016, Big Creek SP, Polk. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Red-headed Woodpecker, 2 September 2016, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Olive-sided Flycatcher, 3 September 2016, Jester Park, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



White-crowned Sparrow, 9 October 2016, Wilson's Orchard, Johnson. *Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

5 Nov (JF), 1 at Cedar L *Linn* 12 Nov (JF), and an adult at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21–22 Nov (RLC, DTh, POR).

Least Tern: All: 1 on 1 Aug at the dairy ponds at 280th and Eastland Avenue *Woodbury* (POR), 1 on 11 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 1 on 5 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TGS).

Caspian Tern: The most was 26 on 11 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Another 13 were at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 19 Aug (NO). Also reported in small numbers from *Allamakee*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Clayton*, *Dickinson*, *Linn,* and *Johnson.* The last was 1 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* on 8 Oct (LAS, PH).

Black Tern: The most was 22 on 19 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) with another 15 on the same day at Alden sewage ponds *Hardin* (MP). The last was a group of 5 on 12 Sep at Trumbull L *Clay* (MHB).

Common Tern: The last 3 were found 8 Oct at two sites – 1 at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB), and 2 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

ARCTIC TERN: Iowa's 5th record was found at Spirit L *Dickinson* 30 Oct by Lee Schoenewe and Joe Jungers (*LAS, *JJ). All five have occurred in the fall season.

Forster's Tern: Reported from 8 counties, including concentrations of 10–18 in *Dickinson*, *Polk,* and *Scott* through 16 Oct (LAS, RLC, DAk). The last was a group of 6 on 6 Nov at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson,* which matched the 3rd-latest date (LAS).

Red-throated Loon: One was on the north arm of L Macbride *Johnson* 26 Oct–1 Nov (JF, MHB, CRE, BCC).

Pacific Loon: An adult could be found at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2–7 Nov (DTh, AB, JB, BE, POR, DCH, JG) and a juvenile was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 26 Nov (SJD).

Common Loon: The first likely migrant was 1 on 4 Sep at Maffitt Res *Polk* (AB). Others did not arrive until mid-October. The most was 65 counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2 Nov (AB). A few were still at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* and Lost Island L *Palo Alto* as the season closed (Dan Rose, DAk).

Neotropic Cormorant: No reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: Following breeding in at least two locations [Dinsmore 2016], the large flocks began assembling around the state in late September. 1424 migrants were counted on 26 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie*, 920 gathered at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 8 Oct and grew to 2400 by 22 Oct (AB), which was the peak.

American White Pelican: Very widely reported, especially along the Des Moines River complex of reservoirs. The highest concentration was 3500 on 5 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE) where numbers remained over 1000 through mid-September. Peak migration in the far west occurred 10–26 Sep when 3905 were counted in flight from the Hitchcock hawk watch tower in *Pottawattamie*, with the most 1167 on 16 Sep (JT). The only other location with a count exceeding 1000 was Hawkeye WA in *Johnson* where 1500 were estimated on 22 Aug (BT).

American Bittern: There were seven reports of single birds: At Trumbull L *Clay* on 27 Aug (JB), Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* on 27 Aug (KVS), Errington M *Polk* on 29 Sep (RLC), Voas

NA *Dallas* on 8 Oct (AB), rural *Tama* on 9 Oct (JF), Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* on 10 Oct (MHB), and Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* on 11 Nov (TNJ).

Least Bittern: 2 were at Banner Flats WA *Warren* on 8 Aug (JG), and up to 3 were at Trumbull L *Clay* 27–28 Aug (JB, LGR).

Great Blue Heron: The most was 54 counted at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Aug (DAk).

Great Egret: The most was up to 95 at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* 16–26 Aug (JB, DAk). 80 or more also gathered at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Hawkeye WA *Johnson* through mid-September (DAk, eBird). The last was seen 20 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB).

Snowy Egret: All: 1 at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* on 9 Aug (KMc), 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Aug (AB, DAk, DTh), 1 near Granger *Dallas* 25 Sep (POR), 1 in *Poweshiek* 6 Oct (EH).

Little Blue Heron: One was found in October in rural *Johnson* (JLF).

Cattle Egret: Found in eight counties, starting with 1 on 6 Sep in *Allamakee* (BR). Some noteworthy groups were 13 photographed near Keota in *Keokuk* on 14 Sep (Laurie Minich Miles), and 25 at Blue L *Monona* on 24 Sep (DCH). The last 3 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 30 Nov, a record late date (LGR, JF).

Green Heron: The last two were October birds, one on 9 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* and another on 18 Oct at Christopherson Sl *Dickinson* (MHB, DAk).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: From 1–3 were reported in eleven counties. In the west, reports came from *Sioux* where an adult and a juvenile were found on 7 Oct (POR), from *Clay* on 27 Aug (JB, JG), and from *Dickinson* on 27 Aug (KVS). 11 others were scattered between central and eastern Iowa counties, with the most 3 at Deere Dike *Dubuque* 18 Oct (DAS), and the last 1 on 20 Oct at Water Works P *Polk* (AB), and another on 22 Oct in *Dickinson* (DAk).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: One was at Forney L *Fremont* 12 Aug (Ross Silcock) and another at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* 14–17 Aug (BCC, TGS).

GLOSSY IBIS: An adult was photographed at the edge of a wet field near Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 19 Oct (*JF).

White-faced Ibis: One was at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* 18, 19 Oct (CJF, BVL, RG) and another was at Nahant M *Scott* 18 Oct, a 3rd-latest date (KMc).

***Plegadis* species**: A lone ibis was at Sandhill L *Woodbury* on 5 Nov (GLV, TL).

Turkey Vulture: 3478 was the highest season total since 2011 at Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie* (JT). At Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall*, the total of 681 was a new record by more than 100 birds (MP). 180 were counted there on 25 Sep. Also noteworthy was 110 on 3 Oct in *Crawford* (AB). The last was 1 on 10 Nov in *Lucas* (DCH).

Osprey: With 24 active nests around the state, and continued releases in July [Dinsmore 2016], it's difficult to know which fall birds are local and which are migrants. At Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie*, days with 10 or more sightings began on 7 Sep (JT). The most was 21 on 14 Sep, and the last was 1 on 15 Oct (JT). Away from Hitchcock, the most was 6 on 24 Sep in *Allamakee* (BR), and the last 3 were November birds on the 1st, 2nd, and 6th in *Cerro Gordo*, *Lee,* and

Cerro Gordo (RG, JLF, BVL).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: At least two made appearances in Iowa this fall. One or possibly two continued for a week at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 19 Aug–4 Sep (*Bill Blackburn, *MHB, *LGR, *Jim Scheib, *CRE, Tom Billerbeck, JF), and another was seen briefly in the eastern sky from the hawk watch tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* 21 Sep, the first sighting in the hawk watch's 15 year history (*Bethany Thornton).

Mississippi Kite: August reports came from the Des Moines area where they nested (JG, DTh) and from Hawkeye WA *Johnson* where a juvenile and an adult were seen 26–30 Aug (MHB, JLF, LGR, MP, BCC). In September, single juveniles were seen on the 5th in *Polk* (KVS) and *Henry* (LGR). On 6 Sep, following a tip, POR found a group of possibly as many as 12 working south in the skies between the Missouri R and the Loess Hills *Woodbury*. A total of six were counted on the season at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* with the last on 20 Sep (JT). A 2nd-latest individual was found in *Poweshiek* on 6 Oct (EH–details).

Bald Eagle: Totals at the two hawk watches, in *Marshall* and *Pottawattamie,* were right at the long-term averages.

Northern Harrier: After four scattered summer sightings from central and western counties [Dinsmore 2016], steady encounters with single migrant birds began at the end of the first week of August. At Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* the high count was 25 on 2 Nov (JT). At both Hitchcock and Grammer Grove hawk watches, totals were about average.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A record low season total of 560 was recorded at the Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie*. The most in one day there was 44 on 25 Sep (JT). At the Grammer Grove hawk watch in *Marshall*, totals were about normal (MP).

Cooper's Hawk: In the east, numbers were down – at Grammer Grove hawk watch in *Marshall*, the season total of 33 was one of the lowest on record (MP). In the west, numbers were up – at Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 287 was the 2nd-highest on record (JT).

Northern Goshawk: A juvenile was found at the Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* 29 Oct (POR) and another was at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* on 1 Nov (BVL, RG). Otherwise, 4 were sighted from the hawk watch tower at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* on 12, 22, 23 Oct and 29 Nov (JT).

Red-shouldered Hawk: Away from hawk watches, there were 26 reports, all from central and eastern counties, and all single birds except for 2 on 1 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DTh) and 2 on 18 Sep at Fox River WA *Van Buren* (MHB). Five were recorded at the Hitchcock hawk watch in *Pottawattamie* (JT), and 3 at the Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall* (MP).

Broad-winged Hawk: Some high totals were 198 on 11 Sep at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 266 on 14 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (JT), and 388 on 21 Sep at Grammer Grove WA (MP). The last was 1 on 12 Oct at Hitchcock.

Swainson's Hawk: For the second season in a row, fewer than 100 were recorded at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pot-*

tawattamie. The first there was 1 on 10 Sep, the most was 13 on 8 Oct, and the last was 3 on 12 Oct (JT). Away from the far west, singles were found 2 Aug in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, RG), and 15 Aug and 11 Sep in *Osceola* (DAk).

Red-tailed Hawk: The season total of 270 at Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall* was the 3rd-lowest in 27 years (MP). Harlan's were reported from *Scott*, *Guthrie,* and *Polk* (JF, DTh, POR, RLC), and Krider's from *Johnson*, *Cerro Gordo,* and *Kossuth* (MHB, BVL, DAk).

Rough-legged Hawk: The first few were 1 on 22 Oct in *Pottawattamie* (JT), 1 on 30 Oct in *Worth* (CJF), and 1 on 3 Nov in *Woodbury* (POR).

Golden Eagle: The first two were seen 7 Oct at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* (JT). At Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall*, the season total of 7 was one short of the record high (MP). Elsewhere, 1 or 2 were seen in *Allamakee* in November (BSc, LGR, BR, JF, RG).

Barn Owl: 17 nests in 2016 was a record for Iowa (BEh). Some of the associated fall activity: A fledgling fell from a nest tree in *Sioux* in early August and was transferred to the care of SOAR. 2 adults and 4 young were confirmed in a farm building in *Marion* in November. 2 adults and 2 young were confirmed in a farm building in *Adams* in November. A lone adult was photographed in an *Osceola* corn crib 17 Nov (BEh).

Snowy Owl: An injured juvenile was picked up 25 Nov near Farmersburg *Clayton* (Burt Walters *fide* SJD), and another was brought to Black Hawk Rehabilitation Project in Waterloo on 29 Nov. A third juvenile was seen near McGregor *Clayton* (Burt Walters *fide* SJD).

Long-eared Owl: The first was found 6 Nov at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (DoP). Another was at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* 17–25 Nov (RG, PH).

Short-eared Owl: One was in rural *Ringgold* on 1 Nov and another in rural *Decatur* on 3 Nov (JRL). Another was found in *Clay* on 5 Nov (LAS), and up to 4 were at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* 9, 10 Nov (POR, GLV).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: The first to return to Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* was noticed 30 Oct, one day earlier than the previous first occurrence (DoP). On the same day, 8 were captured at the banding station in *Pottawattamie* (Jean Martin).

Red-headed Woodpecker: On 4 Sep, 14 were found in the vicinity of Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (BSc). During that first week of September, 342 migrants were counted from the Hitchcock hawk watch tower *Pottawattamie* (JT).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reported in very low numbers throughout the state. All but two of the reports were in September and October. The most was 4 on 1 Sep at Rock Grove Cemetery *Floyd* (RG).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported in small numbers in the eastern half of the state, except for 5 at Shimek SF *Lee* on 18 Sep (MHB), and 1 on 24 Aug in *Taylor* (DAk).

American Kestrel: The season total of 74 at Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie* was the 3rd-lowest in their 15-year history, and only 33% of the record high total of 224 (JT). Interesting to note is at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall*, the total of 20 was also 33% of their highest total

of 60 (MP).

Merlin: After two instances of nesting during summer [Dinsmore 2016], the first likely migrant was 1 on 10 Sep at Sandpiper RA along Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). It was followed by 21 reports of single birds from all parts of the state.

Peregrine Falcon: The totals at the two hawk watches were slightly above average. 35 of the 56 individuals seen at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* occurred between 20–28 Sep. Around the state, there were 19 reports of single birds primarily in September and October.

Prairie Falcon: Two were counted at the Hitchcock hawk watch *Pottawattamie*, 1 on 16 Sep and another on 30 Oct (JT).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first two were found on 16 Aug in *Winnebago* and *Hancock* (RG). As many as 7 were recorded in *Dickinson* during 27, 28 Aug (JB, MP). The last was 1 on 22 Sep at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The most was 14 on 24 Aug at Lake of Three Fires SP *Taylor* (DAk), and the last was 1 on 25 Sep at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* (MHB).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first was 1 on 18 Aug at Big Wall L *Wright* (DAk), followed by seven more August reports and nine September reports from across the state. The last was 1 on 25 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Acadian Flycatcher: There was only one report of this early-departing flycatcher, on 24 Aug at Lake of Three Fires SP *Taylor*, an unusual western location (DAk).

Alder Flycatcher: The first was 1 heard singing on 7 Aug in *Guthrie* (TMH). Following eight August reports of 1 or 2 birds, the last was a calling bird on 5 Sep at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was 1 on 5 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Least Flycatcher: The first report was 2 on 17 Aug at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH). From 1–3 were reported steadily until the last on 19 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Eastern Phoebe: Reports were steady through mid-October, but the last was a very late individual on 6 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC).

Great Crested Flycatcher: The last was 1 heard 2 Oct in the vicinity of the Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (BSc).

Western Kingbird: In the central part of the state, the only reports came from *Polk*, where the last fall report was 3 on 12 Aug at Saylorville (AB, JG, JB, MHB, SJD).

Eastern Kingbird: Large gatherings in anticipation of migration were noticed in the third week of August. 350 were counted on 20 Aug in *Boone*, including 170 along a 4-mile stretch of Deer Avenue (DCH), and another 147 were found in and near Talty WA in *Adams* on 24 Aug (DAk). The last was 1 on 29 Sep in *Muscatine* (Susan Nixon).

Loggerhead Shrike: The last recorded was 2 on 6 Oct in *Poweshiek* (EH).

Northern Shrike: The first was 1 on 5 Nov at Luton WA *Woodbury* (GLV).

White-eyed Vireo: August reports came from *Jefferson*, *Johnson,* and *Audubon* (DCP, JF, DAk), followed by a last report of 4 on 18 Sep at Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB).

Bell's Vireo: Birds were still singing on 8 Sep in two distinct locations at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper*, the last report of the season (KVS).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reported into the fourth week of September (m.ob.). The most was 6 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 10, 11 Sep (RLC, KVS).

Blue-headed Vireo: Very widely reported in small numbers with the last 1 on 16 Oct in rural *Polk* (KVS).

Philadelphia Vireo: The first was 2nd-earliest on 5 Aug at Princeton M *Scott* (KMc–details). The last was 1 on 30 Sep at Ledges SP Boone (DCH).

Warbling Vireo: The most was 11 on 5 Sep at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk), and the last was 1 on 22 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Red-eyed Vireo: Some noteworthy concentrations were 32 on 23 Aug in Littlefield RA *Audubon* (DAk), 45 on 31 Aug at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH), and 32 on 10 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC). The last was 1 on 30 Sep on Red Oak Road *Allamakee* (BR).



Red-eyed Vireo, 30 August 2016, Ledges State Park, Story. *Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Blue Jay: During the period 17 Sep–5 Oct, 3924 migrants were counted from the Hitchcock hawk watch tower, *Pottawattamie* (JT). On 18 Sep, MCK counted 250 at the Riverview Cemetery *Kossuth*.

Black-billed Magpie: No reports.

Purple Martin: Began gathering at the end of the first week of August. On 14 Aug, 130 were counted at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (MHB). The last was a lone bird on 10 Sep at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* (DAS).

Tree Swallow: From mid-September to mid-October could be found swarming over bodies of water. The largest concentration was an estimated 3100 over Saylorville Res *Polk* on 25 Sep (AB). The last was a group of 5 on 6 Nov at L Macbride *Johnson* (LGR).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: The last few were 17 on 30 Sep in *Clay* (DAk) and another 15 on 5 Oct at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Bank Swallow: The last was a lone individual picked out over Saylorville Res *Polk* on 24 Sep (AB).

Cliff Swallow: Some high counts were over 700 at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* on 13 Aug (DAk), and another 300 on 8 Sep at Neal Smith NWR (KVS). Birds were pretty much gone by the end of September. There were no October reports, but there was a record late report of 2 birds on 3 Nov at Greencastle airport *Johnson* (JLF). To put this in perspective, the median departure date for Cliff Swallow since the year 2000 is 21 Sep, and the latest record during that time is 10 Oct (2007, 2014). The extreme lateness of the individuals reported here suggest the tantalizing possibility that they may

have been Cave Swallows which are notoriously difficult to separate from Cliff Swallows in flight, and which would be the expected swallow on this date.

CAVE SWALLOW: See Cliff Swallow.

Barn Swallow: The last few were 5 on 15 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 1 on 15 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), and 2 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 41 reports from all parts of the state beginning with three at the end of August: 1 on 29 Aug at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 31 Aug at Riverview Cemetery *Kossuth* (MCK), and 1 on 31 Aug in rural *Fayette* (PDBS). The most was 6 at Elmwood Cemetery in Mason City on 15 Sep (BVL).

Brown Creeper: The first fall report was 1 on 16 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and was followed by a steady stream of reports of single birds, except for 3 on 15 Nov at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (DAk).

Carolina Wren: August reports from Iowa Lakeside Lab in *Dickinson* (KVS, MP, JB, LAS) were unusual, along with two later reports from *Woodbury* in the far west (GLV, POR).

House Wren: The last was 1 on 16 Oct at Lakeview RA *Polk* (RLC).

Winter Wren: The first fall reports away from *Jones* where they nested [Dinsmore 2016] was 1 on 25 Sep at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk), followed by 2 on 1 Oct in Urbandale (BE).

Sedge Wren: High counts were 28 at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* on 14 Sep (RLC) and at least 29 just along the entry road to Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* on 29 Aug (KVS). The last was 1 calling at Red Feather Prairie 29 Oct (KVS).

Marsh Wren: The most was 11 at Green Island WA *Jackson* on 9 Aug (LGR), and the last was 1 on 22 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The last was 1 on 11 Oct in Clive (SB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Appeared abruptly on 29 Sep in *Boone*, *Johnson*, *Muscatine,* and *Polk* (DCH, JB, Susan Nixon, Frederick Ruckersfeldt). The next day, 37 were counted in *Kossuth* (DAk). Steady reports continued through October and slowed considerably in November.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first 3 were found 31 Aug at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH). The most was 10 on 8 Oct at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Eastern Bluebird: As many as 20 were counted at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* on 4 Sep (KVS), which was the most.

Townsend's Solitaire: One was spotted 30 Sep from the Hitchcock hawk watch tower *Pottawattamie* (Bethany Thornton).

Veery: The last were on 8 Sep at two locations – 3 in Grimes (JB), and 1 at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All: 1 on 31 Aug at East P in Mason City (BVL), 1 on 1 Sep at Rock Grove Cemetery *Floyd* (RG), 1 on 3 Sep at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 14 Sep along the Comet Trail *Grundy* (MP).

Swainson's Thrush: The first 5 were found at two locations in *Cerro Gordo* on 20 Aug (BVL, RG). Pre-dawn flight calls were heaviest for JB on 8 Sep in Grimes *Polk*. The last was 1 on 24 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG).

Hermit Thrush: The first was 1 on 29 Sep near the NIACC campus *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) followed by 2 on 9 Oct at Ledges SP *Boone* (KVS) and 2 on 9 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). The only two November reports were singles on 18 Nov in *Appanoose* (TNJ) and 25 Nov at Jester P *Polk* (MHB).

Wood Thrush: The last was 1 on 16 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC).

Gray Catbird: The last was 1 on 25 Sep along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Brown Thrasher: The last spent 2 weeks in an Urbandale yard before disappearing on 4 Nov (BE).

Northern Mockingbird: At Jester P *Polk*, during August, adults feeding recently fledged young were seen by many. Also reported from *Iowa* (LGR) and *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Bohemian Waxwing: One was found 25 Nov at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (DAk).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: All reports came from the SE and also *Tama*.

American Pipit: The first, on 14 Aug in *Dallas* (DTh), was 3rd-earliest and more than a month prior to the second on 27 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Some high counts were up to 70 in a flooded field in *Hancock* in late October and early November (RG, CJF, POR), and 80 at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* on 13 Nov (AB).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: One was identified by flight pattern and call note at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* on 24 Sep (*AB).

Purple Finch: The first appeared 5 Oct at a Mason City feeder (BVL). Some groups were 16 on 23 Oct also in Mason City (CJF) and 11 on 25 Nov at Jester P *Polk* (POR).

Red Crossbill: On 25 Nov, 13 were calling overhead at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (DAk).

Pine Siskin: The first fall reports were 1 on 3 Sep in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ) followed by 2 at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* on 14 Sep (AMJ). Also reported from *Des Moines*, *Dubuque*, *Madison*, *O'Brien*, *Polk,* and *Scott*.

Lapland Longspur: A count of 30 on 25 Oct in rural *Hancock* was the first report (RG). Some noteworthy groups were 1200 on 1 Nov in *Kossuth* (DAk) and 420 on 13 Nov at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt *Polk* (AB).

Smith's Longspur: All: 25 on 23 Oct in rural *Emmet* (DAk), 3 on 25 Oct at the edges of a *Hancock* flooded field (RG), 3 on 3 Nov in *Decatur* (JRL), and 4 on 5 Nov in *Clay* (LAS).

Snow Bunting: The first was a group of 15 on 1 Nov in rural *Kossuth* (DAk). Also reported in *Johnson* and *Polk*.

Ovenbird: The last was 1 on 7 Oct at Clausen's Cove on the south side of Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (LAS).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The last was 1 on 31 Aug Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH).

Northern Waterthrush: The first few were 1 on 27 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), 2 on 28 Aug at Iowa Lakeside Lab *Dickinson* (JB, MP), and 1 on 31 Aug along the Comet Trail *Grundy* (MP). The last was 1 on 13 Sep at Water Works P *Polk* (JB).

Golden-winged Warbler: The first two were 1 on 13 Aug at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, RG) and 1 on 16 Aug at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* (JF). As many as 8 were counted at Parker's

Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 7 Sep (BVL). There were no reports from the western half of the state. The last was 1 on 16 Sep in rural *Polk* (KVS).

Blue-winged Warbler: The first report away from breeding locations in the east was 1 on 5 Sep along the Skunk R Greenbelt *Story* (TMH). The last two were quite late, 1 on 25 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG) was 3rd-latest, and 1 on 4 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was record late (JF).

Black-and-white Warbler: Although there was the possibility of nesting occurring during the summer, a steady stream of reports of likely migrants began about 15 Aug with 3 in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). The most was 7 on 5 Sep at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk). Last was 2 on 24 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Prothonotary Warbler: The only report was 1 on 12 Aug at Pool 11 *Clayton* (BR).

Tennessee Warbler: The first observed was 1 on 13 Aug at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, RG). As many as 15 were counted at Ledges SP *Boone* on 29 Sep (DCH). The last report was 1 on 23 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Orange-crowned Warbler: With Tennessee Warblers already in the state, an August report did not include enough detail to separate the two species, which can be very difficult in the fall. The median arrival date is 10 Sep, which is the date of the second report – 1 at Ledges SP *Boone*, where the high count of 5 individuals also occurred on 29 Sep (DCH). The last was 1 on 23 Oct along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Nashville Warbler: The most was 16 on 10 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC), and the last was 2 on 16 Oct in a Johnston yard (DTh).

Mourning Warbler: In August, 1 was at Littlefield RA *Audubon* on the 23rd and another was in a Mason City yard on the 26th (DAk, BVL). In September, 1 was at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* on the 4th, another was at Water Works P *Polk* on the 7th, and the last was at Cottonwood RA *Polk* on the 10th (BSc, JB, BCC).

Kentucky Warbler: The only report was 1 on 5 Sep at Brinton Timber *Washington* (RS).

Common Yellowthroat: The last report was 1 on 20 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Hooded Warbler: The only report was 1 on 18 Sep at Macbride Nature RA *Johnson*, a 2nd-latest date (CRE).

American Redstart: The last was a surprise group of 6 flitting about my Mason City yard on 29 Sep (PH).

Cape May Warbler: The first two reports occurred in late August – 1 on the 27th in *Dickinson* and 2 on the 31st at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (DTh, JF). They were followed by five September reports of single birds ending with 1 on 23 Sep at Cedar L *Chickasaw* (BCC).

Northern Parula: The last, on 23 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson*, was 3rd-latest (MHB).

Magnolia Warbler: The first few were 3 at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* on 20 Aug (BVL), 1 at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* on 21 Aug (MP), and 1 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 21 Aug (RG). The most was 6 on 8 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC). The last was 1 on 5 Oct at Union Grove

SP *Tama* (MP).

Bay-breasted Warbler: The first was 1 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 21 Aug (RG). From 1–4 were reported from 7 widely scattered counties, with the last in my Mason City yard on 4 Oct (PH).

Blackburnian Warbler: The first few reports were 1 on 17 Aug in a Cedar Rapids yard (BSc) and 2 in East P in Mason City (BVL). From 1–3 were reported in 10 additional counties with the last 1 on 18 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (CRE).

Yellow Warbler: The last was 1 foraging in an oak in my Mason City backyard 29 Sep (PH), a 4th-latest date.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: Three at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* on 7 Aug were almost 2 weeks earlier than the next report of 1 at Cottonwood RA *Polk* on 19 Aug (RLC). Widely reported with the most 8 on 10 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC). The last was 1 on 20 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC).

Blackpoll Warbler: There were three reports of single birds, all without details – 5 Sep in *Dickinson*, 9 Sep in *Jefferson*, and 16 Sep in *Linn*.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: There were five reports with the first three females and the latter two males. They were: 24 Aug at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC) which matched the 3rd-earliest date, 6 Sep in *Iowa* (JF), 7 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG, BVL), 10 Sep at Parker's Woods (BVL), 7 Oct at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (LAS, RG).

Palm Warbler: One of the last warbler species to arrive. Except for an early bird on 8 Sep in *Grundy* (MP), migrants were not found in Iowa until a trickle of birds began with 2 on 15 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Reports of 1–3 continued until the last on 5 Oct at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Pine Warbler: All: An adult on 27 Aug at Iowa Lakeside Lab *Dickinson* (MP), a female on 5 Sep at Cherry Glen RA *Polk* (DTh, KVS), 1 or 2 at Mines of Spain RA overlook *Dubuque* 9–13 Sep (Tony Moline).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The first was 1 on 30 Aug at Manhattan Robbins Lake P *Linn* (JF). Some high counts were 55 on 30 Sep at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 110 on 30 Sep at Water Works P *Polk* (AB), and 70 on 1 Oct at Big Creek SP *Polk* (MHB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: The last was 1 on 26 Sep at Coralville Res *Johnson* (MHB).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first was 1 on 16 Aug at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* (JF). From 1–3 were reported from 13 counties with the last a group of 3 at McIntosh SP *Cerro Gordo* on 7 Oct (RG, LAS).

Canada Warbler: One on 14 Aug in Mason City was the first (BVL). Reports of 1–4 followed steadily from across the state until the last on 18 Sep in Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB).

Wilson's Warbler: The first was 1 on 20 Aug at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). Reported from 13 counties with the most 6 on 10 Sep at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (BCC). The last was 1 on 10 Oct along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Spotted Towhee: The only report was 1 on 15 Oct in *Sioux* (JJ).

Eastern Towhee: There were 10 reports of 1 or 2 with the last 1 on 23 Oct in *Woodbury* (GLV).

American Tree Sparrow: The first, which was 1 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), was right on the 20-year median arrival date. The first substantial group was 45 on 27 Oct at Spirit L *Dickinson* (DAk).

Chipping Sparrow: Counts of 10 or more were still occurring at the end of the 2nd week of October, but then they quickly became scarce. The last was 1 on 29 Oct at Graceland Park Cemetery *Woodbury* (POR).

Clay-colored Sparrow: All: 3 on 13 Aug in rural *Cerro Gordo* (RG), 1 on 29 Sep in Mason City (PH), 1 on 2 Oct at Big Creek SP *Polk* (POR), 7 on 11 Oct in *Kossuth* (DAk), and 5 on 27 Oct in *Dickinson* (DAk–details).

Field Sparrow: The most and also the last was 30 counted at Rathbun L *Appanoose* on 8 Oct (TNJ).

Vesper Sparrow: The last was 1 on 26 Oct in *Emmet* (DAk).

Lark Sparrow: The last was 1 on 26 Aug at Spring Run Wetland Complex *Dickinson* (POR).

LARK BUNTING: One was flushed from the side of the road 1 Sep in rural *Audubon* (*DAk).

Savannah Sparrow: Some high counts were 52 on 3 Oct near Bjorkboda M in *Boone* (DCH), at least 35 on 15 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), and 16 on 26 Oct in *Emmet* (DAk). Still present in *Polk* on 30 Nov (RLC).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The last few were 1 on 2 Oct at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DAk), and 1 on 7 Oct at Luton WA *Woodbury* (GLV).

Henslow's Sparrow: The most was 10 individuals counted singing in the bison enclosure at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* on 1 Sep and another 5 along the entrance road (KVS). The last was getting late on 15 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

LeConte's Sparrow: The first 2 found, on 28 Sep at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (MP) were late, a week past the median arrival date. 15 or more were counted at three sites in October, Moeckly Prairie *Polk*, Luton WA *Woodbury*, and a rural CRP field in *Kossuth* (POR, GLV, DAk). November sightings ended with 1 on 12 Nov at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Nelson's Sparrow: The first, 2 on 30 Sep in *Polk* (RLC), was 10 days beyond the median arrival date. Reported from 12 counties with the most 9 on 2 Oct at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DAk). The last was 2 in rural *Kossuth* on 18 Oct (DAk).

Fox Sparrow: First found on 28 Sep at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (MP). The most was 6 on 26 Oct at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (GLV).

Lincoln's Sparrow: The first report was 2 on 10 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH). Some high counts were 16 on 20 Sep at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 25 on 12 Oct at New L *Woodbury* (POR), and 25 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last was 3 on 4 Nov at Sandpiper RA *Polk* (JB).

Swamp Sparrow: High counts were 40 at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* 2 Oct (MHB), and 48 at Errington M *Polk* 14 Oct (RLC).

White-throated Sparrow: First reported 10 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). The high count was 126 at Trumbull L *Clay* on 30 Sep (DAk).

Harris's Sparrow: The first few were 1 on 29 Sep at Union Hills *Cerro Gordo* (RG), 8 on 30 Sep at Trumbull L

Clay (DAk), and 1 on 1 Oct at Sugar Bottom RA *Johnson* (MHB). DAk reports a count of 178 for the day's total on 27 Oct in *Dickinson*.

White-crowned Sparrow: The first three reports were just on the early side of the 20-year median arrival date of 28 Sep: 1 on 25 Sep in *Johnson* (MHB), 1 on 26 Sep in Mason City (CJF), and 1 on 27 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first report was 3 on 28 Sep in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), followed by 1 on 29 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH).

Yellow-breasted Chat. No reports.

Summer Tanager: Three were found 18 Aug at Stone SP *Woodbury*, suggesting breeding there (GLV). The last 2 reported to the IOU were on 5 Sep in *Story* (TMH) and *Polk* (DTh), but a Fontenelle Forest Bird Club field trip recorded 1 on 19 Nov at the Visitor Center DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (eBird).

Scarlet Tanager: The last report was 2 on 24 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The last report was 1 on 25 Sep along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Blue Grosbeak: Five counted on 17 Sep in *Woodbury* (GLV) were the last in the west. In the east, two females were found at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* on the record late date of 19 Oct (James Huntington), with at least one lingering another day (BCC–photo).

Indigo Bunting: The last 2 were found at Jester P *Polk* on 8 Oct (AB).

Dickcissel: Some high counts were 20 on 13 Aug at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (DAk), 32 on 13 Aug at Jester P *Polk* (RLC), and 20 on 3 Sep at Oak Grove RA *Polk* (MHB). The last was 1 on 14 Oct at Green Island WA *Jackson* (KMc).

Bobolink: The most was 60 counted on 21 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). The last was 2 on 6 Oct at Morgan Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Eastern Meadowlark: The last identified by song were still active at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 8 Oct (KVS).

Western Meadowlark: The last report was 6 on 18 Oct in *Kossuth* (DAk).

Meadowlark species: A report of a meadowlark north of Mason City on 28 Nov did not include any details about voice. The last, which was silent and left unidentified to species was at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* 29 Oct (KVS).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: As many as 150 were estimated at Trumbull L *Clay* on 26, 27 Aug during the IOU Fall Meeting field trip. The last report was 1 on 2 Oct at Forney L *Fremont* (Ross Silcock).

Rusty Blackbird: The first few were 4 on 2 Oct at Sunken Grove *Pocahontas* (DAk) and 10 on 8 Oct at Eagle L *Hancock* (PH). The most was 100 on 27 Oct at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (BR).

Brewer's Blackbird: Eleven at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* on 7 Oct were the first of the season (LAS). From 1–14 were reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Decatur*, *Hancock*, *Jasper*, and *Polk*.

Great-tailed Grackle: The most was 76 on 18 Sep at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DCH). The last, on 4 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* was rare for that county, and a county bird for BCC.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Some noteworthy flocks were 1400 on 11 Sep in *Dickinson* (MHB), 1000 on 4 Oct in *Story* (TMH), and 2200 on 12 Nov in

Dallas (AB).

Orchard Oriole: The most was 7 on 13 Aug at Jester P *Polk* (RLC) where the last of the season also was found on 10 Sep (AB).

Baltimore Oriole: The last was 1 on the Riverside Bike Trail *Washington* on 30 Sep (FB).

COMMENT

This report would not be possible without the data contributed by the 64 people listed below, and the 20 others whose names appear in the text. These are your data, your journal, your Union. The gathering, recording, and then sharing of this information is a key factor in assisting the Union in fulfilling a fundamental mission – the preserving of the ornithological record of the state of Iowa.

The efforts of these people has enabled the summarizing of the presence of 291 species from August 1 to November 30, 2016. They contributed 3644 records from 318 locations in 82 of Iowa's 99 counties. As the reviewer of this information, I really appreciate every contribution, and all the supporting details, comments, and photos. If you do not already share your data with the Union, please consider participating in this worthwhile process.

This article also makes use of data collected and previously published elsewhere. Some of the sources of these data are: Iowa DNR August Roadside Surveys, Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity News, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IA-Bird listserv, Illinois Natural History Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USFWS waterfowl counts at DeSoto NWR, Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), eBird database, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union website.

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAk	Spirit Lake	Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale
Pam Allen	PHA	W Des Moines	Bruce Ehresman	BEh	Ames
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Sharon Bauer	SB	Winterset	Pip Fisher	PF	Madrid
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids
April Blair	ABl	Humboldt	James Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Fawn Bowden	FB	Riverside	Chuck Fuller	CF	Burlington
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City	Jacob Gilliam	JG	Norwalk
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Brandon Caswell	BCC	Cedar Rapids	Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames
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Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb	David Willig	DW	Grinnell
Billy Reiter-Marolf	BR	New Albin	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada

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A Long Lost Story

Larry Dau

Sometimes things occur in strange and mysterious ways. This account of Great Horned Owl banding was written by Norman Ward, a good friend of mine, while we were in high school in the nineteen-sixties. It disappeared for over half a century, then suddenly reappeared in a very unusual way. I believe the article was originally intended for *Iowa Bird Life*, but was never submitted (until now).

I received a phone call from Brian Button, editor of *Iowa Outdoors* about a year and a half ago. Brian said the hand written story about Great Horned Owl banding was discovered inside a bird book purchased at a sale. He thought the account was very interesting, but had no idea who the author was, since it was not signed. However, one of the first lines of the story began "Pete Petersen, Larry Dau, and myself." Brian knew who I was and gave me a call. I immediately remembered the event and knew it was written by Norman Ward. Brian felt he might include the story in a future issue of *Iowa Outdoors*, but agreed I could publish it.



Figure 1. Norman Ward in 1980 in one of his favorite places, a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Photo supplied by Bonnie Ward.

During our high school years in Bettendorf, Iowa, Norman and I were avid bird-watchers. In those early years we participated in several eastern Iowa Christmas Bird Counts with Pete and Mary Lou Petersen. Norm also assisted Pete with bird netting and banding activities. Norm was a very strong teenager and I marveled at his ability to climb large trees to band owls and other raptors. Even more amazing, he used only a rope and no cleats. Some of the trees were dead from Dutch elm disease. His method

probably would not meet OSHA standards! The article below is printed with Norman's permission. It is in his exact words as written by him at 17 years of age, with some very minor editing. I appreciate having this opportunity to share this story from the past and hope you enjoy it.

Great Horned Owl Banding – Circa 1965

Norman C. Ward, Jr.

This is an account of a nest of Great Horned Owls I banded on Saturday, April 10, 1965.

Pete Petersen, Larry Dau, and myself [*sic*] arrived at the nest site early afternoon that Saturday. The nest site was located about 5 miles SW of Princeton on County Road H. The nest tree was located on the southern fringe border of a relatively large oak woods.

The nest platform itself was on the extreme topmost fork of an unusually slender and very tall white oak. I had judged the tree to be about 65 feet tall. After having difficulty climbing to the first limb, even with the aid of a rope, I finally reached a position directly under the nest. After reaching this precarious position, I was completely immobilized from further climbing for several minutes, due to violent swaying of the tree caused by a very strong and turbulent wind. It was then that I was shocked with fear to note how small the limb to which I was clinging really was.

After the wind had calmed down somewhat, I heard the young owls snapping their beaks and uttering a queer Sapsucker-like note. Gathering courage, I disregarded the wind and elevated myself eye level to the nest. Here I found myself confronting the onslaught of two very angry young Great Horned Owls. Not desiring to lose an eye nor receive facial injuries, I cowardly descended to a point several feet under the nest. Here I began wondering if the parent owls weren't somewhere nearby watching and waiting for a chance. It was then that I began recalling such coined expressions as "tiger of the air," "killer of the night," or "silent death."

But, after receiving loud shouts of encouragement and advice from my comrades, I again inched my way up to a position slightly above the nest. Again, the owls assumed defensive positions, snapping their bills loudly and spreading their underdeveloped wings all in a very impressive manner. Seeing that in my totally tenacious position I couldn't possibly band the owls, I grudgingly placed my life into the trust of the seemingly weak branches supporting the nest and actually crawled onto the nest, much to the annoyance of the bewildered owlets.

After arranging the bands, pliers, gloves, etc. into an order so that I could easily grab them when needed, I began to cautiously handle one of the owlets with my one free hand. After convincing myself that they would only attack with their beaks, I

turned to the problem of banding them. Since the wind was still violently rocking the tree, I could only use one hand for the banding operation.

Opening the bands became quite a problem. After assuming several unsuccessful positions, I had to resort to allowing the wind to settle. Then, balancing myself on my knees and shins, I quickly opened two bands. After banding both owls, I sat much relieved looking down at the comical owls who were now squatted, looking up dumbly, blinking their eyes. I chuckled aloud, rather ashamed of having been frightened by these little bluffers. I recalled how they first acted ferocious, but now proved to be rather passive. In fact, I remarked to my patiently waiting companions that they were "really as harmless as kittens." Among the debris in the nest were 19 whole pellets (rodents presumably), a complete pheasant wing, loose pheasant feathers, the remains of a flicker, a whole starling, a fresh rabbit breast (meat attached), a variety of bones, and rabbit fur.

I descended from the tree with no further incidents. After more closely examining the area around the base of the tree, I found more pheasant feathers, but fortunately not a single sign of poultry depredation.

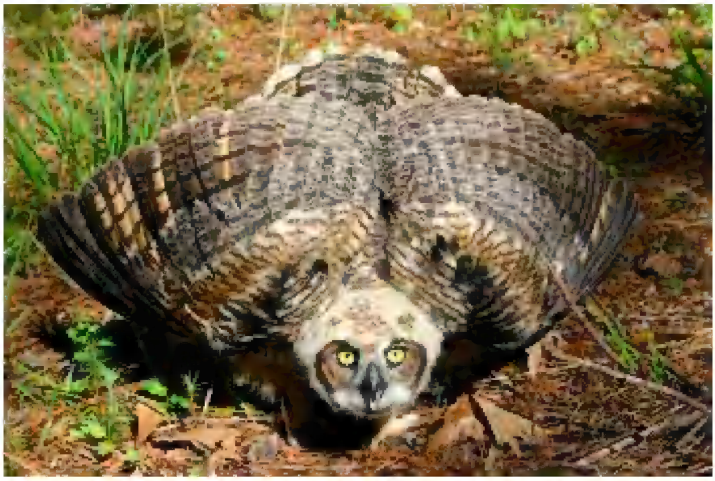


Figure 2. In this photo you can see that young Great Horned Owls can be pretty menacing, especially when you are way up in a tree at their nest! April 2005. Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article in the March 1967 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is Woodward Brown's report on the 1966–67 Christmas Bird Count. Both the number of counts (30) and participants (261) were up from the previous year but the total species found (109) was down by one. Davenport had the most species with 75 and Clinton was next with 50. Counts of Northern Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Blue Jay were up, but few Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were found. The totals of Canada Geese (103 on two counts), Bald Eagle (224 on 10 counts), and Wild Turkey (19 on two counts) are miniscule compared to recent years. I also noted that at least 11 participants in these counts are still active in some manner with birding or ornithology in Iowa or elsewhere.

An article by Dean Roosa summarized banding activity in Iowa in 1966. Some 23,886 birds were banded by 15 banders or banding groups with the 6,376 banded by the Iowa Conservation Commission the most. More Blue-winged Teal (3,930) were banded than any other species. Other species with more than 1,000 banded were Mourning Dove, Purple Finch, Dark-eyed Junco, and American Tree Sparrow. Only one each of 23 species was banded. These included Red-necked Grebe, Western Sandpiper, Bewick's Wren, and Painted Bunting!

An article by Ruth Summy summarized results of a literature search and a postcard survey sent to I.O.U. members to compile reports of Northern Mockingbird in Iowa from 1961–65 and earlier years. She concluded that the species seemed to be showing a northward expansion of its range in Iowa. The project was used by Ms. Summy to fulfill requirements for the Curved Bar Award, then the highest award in the Girl Scout program.

The field reports article covers the winter season of 1966–67 which seemed to be a pretty bleak winter for most bird groups. Author Woodward Brown specifically mentions that few hawks, Horned Larks, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Harris's Sparrows were found. Northern Bobwhite numbers seemed to be up and several flocks of Brewer's and Rusty blackbirds were reported. In general it apparently was a pretty slow winter for birding.

In a short note, Donald Peterson summarized his observations of shorebirds at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge from late May to early September 1965. He saw 25 species with Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Solitary Sandpipers being numerous. Migration peaked from 24–30 July when he counted more than 3,500 shorebirds. Nesting species included Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, and probably Wilson's Phalarope.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

6 May 2017

The I.O.U. spring board meeting was held at Carpenter's Hall in Chariton, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. In attendance were vice-president Dennis Thompson, secretary Rex Rundquist, treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, and directors at large Tyler Harms, Candace Havely, and Eric Ollie. Attending as guests were Ann Johnson, Hank Zaletel, Doug Harr, Cecille Thompson, Paul Hertzel, and board nominees Kevin Murphy and Diane Dentlinger.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Francis Moore explained that the board had an "electronic vote" online during the winter. The proposal for I.O.U. to join the Iowa Environmental Council was declined.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August 2016 board of directors and business meetings have been published in *Iowa Bird Life*, Volume 86, Number 2 (Spring 2016). The minutes have been reviewed and revised by the board and will be presented at the general meeting today for approval along with the minutes from the 29 January 2017 Budget and Board of Directors meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt gave the directors a brief summary of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet comparisons were presented. Dues income is reported as down from the previous year, but that this is felt to be due to timing of these receipts. Further discussion revealed that overall membership numbers are down from the previous year. Tyler Harms clarified that the $1296.55 listed in the "Projects" fund is money left over from last year (2016).

Membership Coordinators Report: Cecille Thompson reported that we have 27 new members and 71 non-renewals. Despite this, we are currently at 402 members, which is near our five-year average (but down from 434 members in 2016).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None reported

NEW BUSINESS:

Dennis Thompson reports that the fall meeting (West Okoboji) left us with a loss of $362.22. This was due to unusual circumstances not expected to recur. The 2017 fall meeting will be in Dubuque during the second week of November and will be hosted by Dubuque Audubon. Holiday Inn in Dubuque is to be the meeting site. The planned featured speaker is Amar Ayyash, the gull expert from Chicago. Possibilities for the 2018 spring meeting include Allamakee County and Ida County. Nathan Pieplow, earbirding expert, is being considered for the featured speaker.

Francis Moore reported transition in several of the standing committees. Tyler Harms will be going off the projects committee, Jay Gilliam will finish his term on the records committee, and Paul Skrade

and Rick Hollis will be done with service on the membership committee. Potential members to fill these vacancies are being sought.

Tyler Harms presented the projects committee funding report. There was a total of fifteen applications received. Twelve of these were funded (9 fully funded, 3 partially). It was a mixture of three research grants and a number of educational and "structural" projects. A total of $9071.82 was funded. Please refer to Tyler's report for details.

Hank Zalatel reported a donation to I.O.U. by Chuck Ray. It is a collection of very old (early 1900s) ornithological journals. Hank plans to sell these journals online (eBay, Amazon, etc.). The money generated from their sale was requested to go to I.O.U. publications.

Doug Harr presented the nominating committee report. Francis Moore has agreed to continue and is nominated to be president. Pip Fisher has accepted nomination to be vice president/meetings chair. Diane Dentlinger and Kevin Murphy have agreed to nomination for at large board membership.

Paul Hertzel plans to present his records committee report at the general meeting.

Ann Johnson reports that she has made numerous attempts to find a new editor for *Iowa Bird Life*. She has had no success thus far. An appeal will be made at today's general meeting. She also suggested that we provide a "Fledgling Membership" to I.O.U. for each member (currently about 60 kids) of Iowa Young Birders. It was moved that such a "Fledgling Membership" be provided. This was seconded by Candace Havely and approved by acclamation.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the motion carried. The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Rex W. Rundquist, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

6 May 2017

The I.O.U. spring business meeting was held at Carpenters' Hall in Chariton, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were vice-president Dennis Thompson, secretary Rex Rundquist, treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, directors at large Tyler Harms, Candace Havely, and Eric Ollie, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August 2016 board of directors and business meetings have been published in *Iowa Bird Life*, Volume 86, Number 2 (Spring 2016). The 29 January 2017 Budget and Board of Directors meeting was circulated at the meeting for acceptance. Paul Roisen moved to approve the minutes as published and circulated, and Hank Zaletel seconded. Motion

carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt remarked that our financial situation is as expected and gave a brief summary of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet comparisons were presented. Once again it was explained that year to year comparisons are difficult due to the irregular nature of the timing of renewals, billing, and payments. Currently we have $90,699 in assets. General operations fund includes $44,980. The remainder are funds with special designation. A request was made to the membership for volunteer(s) to do an audit of our accounts (expected to last only 1-2 hours). Those willing and able should contact Mary Beth.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that our current membership total is at 402. Membership numbers are down from last year's 434. Current membership level is similar to previous years. There are 27 new members and 71 non-renewals from last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that she is still searching for a replacement of Steve Dinsmore as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, a post he has held for the past seven years. Steve accepted a plaque honoring his service presented before the membership by President Francis Moore. Steve spoke to the importance of carrying this work forward as it is an important, longstanding archive of I.O.U. activities and record of Iowa birds. He stressed his feeling that the new editor have expertise in Iowa birds and have proven editorial experience. He went into detail about the actual production process of an issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. There was some sentiment expressed that this position be a committee of 2-3 persons moving forward, since finding an individual with the aforementioned expertise may be challenging. Karen Disbrow suggested asking Chris Edwards if he would consider the position, as he has served the Iowa City Bird Club well in editorial capacity for several years.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel again stressed the importance to the membership of getting reports in to the committee and how helpful good photographs are in determining viable reports. In 2016 there were 49 records reviewed, with 44 accepted. There are records now of 428 species (429 if a recent White-tailed Kite report is accepted).

Membership Committee: Doug Harr presented the report for absent Paul Skrade. Although numbers are down and the committee is concerned, some loss of membership seems to be from institutions (libraries) that are not renewing. I.O.U. logo apparel, other than a few caps available at this meeting, will soon be purchasable through Corporate Casuals and/or Café Press rather than the organization keeping an inventory of merchandise to sell on site at meetings. This way members can order the items and sizes desired and simply request that the I.O.U. logo be included for a small fee. Field cards and the Yellow Book will continue to be for sale at meetings. Francis M. explained that the membership committee has 7 members, each with a five-year term. Rick Hollis and Paul Skrade will be leaving the committee so two replacements will be needed.

Projects Committee: John Cecil reported on behalf of chair, Tyler Harms. A total of 16 grant applications were received. Thirteen of the requests were fully funded or partially funded. There were requests in amount totaling $14,473 of which $9071.82 was granted. Stickers and placards with the I.O.U. logo are sent to recipients to display on items funded by the organization. John read a detailed list of the projects funded. Please see the projects committee report for details. A new committee member will be needed, going forward, to replace Tyler Harms. Paul Roisen explained how well-organized this committee is and how a new committee member is gradually transitioned into more responsibilities as his term moves forward.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zalatel reported a donation to I.O.U. by Chuck Ray. It is a collection of very old (early 1900s) ornithological journals. Hank plans to sell these journals online (eBay, Amazon, etc.). The money generated from their sale was requested to go to I.O.U. publications. The I.O.U. archives are held at the Iowa State University Library. They recently received a grant to digitize selected records from this collection (grant of $200,000+). These digitized collections should become available over the internet. Ann Johnson will help coordinate availability of these archives.

Events Committee (ad hoc): Eric Ollie reported that the most recent field trip was offered by I.O.U. in late January 2017 to various birding areas in Northwest Iowa. Weather conditions were not conducive to good birding, but a key target bird, the Northern Saw-whet Owl, was shown to all by Don Poggensee at Morehead Park in Ida Grove. The proposed trip to Michigan to look for Kirtland's Warbler, etc., was cancelled when only four people signed up. Seven or more were needed to make it financially feasible.

Communications Committee (ad hoc): Ann Johnson explained that the communications committee continues to govern the I.O.U.'s presence on social media and the listserv, as well as with other future/emerging platforms to include Twitter, Facebook, and others. *The Bobolink*, an intermittent online newsletter, seems to be favorably received and will continue on an "as needed" schedule. Rick Hollis and Linda Rudolph have been managing the listserv and John Bissell and Linda have been producing *The Bobolink*. Rick is managing the Facebook page.

Meetings: Vice-president Dennis Thompson explained that the fall meeting (West Okoboji) left us with a loss of $362.22. This was due to unusual circumstances not expected to recur. The 2017 fall meeting will be in Dubuque during the second week of November and will be hosted by Dubuque Audubon. Holiday Inn in Dubuque is to be the meeting site. The planned featured speaker is Amar Ayyash, the gull expert from Chicago.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Constitutional Amendment: Francis Moore explained that a constitutional amendment has been proposed to make both the ad hoc events committee and the ad hoc communications committee new standing committees of the I.O.U. and their ad hoc status be dissolved. This pro-

posed amendment was published in *Iowa Bird Life*: Vol. 86 (3), p. 131 (Summer 2016). Ann Johnson moved for approval of this amendment. Motion was seconded by Steve Dinsmore. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Doug Harr shared the slate created by the committee:

Directors: Diane Dentlinger and Kevin Murphy
Vice President: Pip Fisher
President: Francis Moore

Joel Haak moved that nominations cease; seconded by Candace Havely. Motion was made to elect the slate as presented by the nominating committee by Ann Johnson and seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried.

Hank Zaletel moved to adjourn. Barb Fisher Krueger seconded, and the motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Rex W, Rundquist, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

11 November 2017

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall board meeting was held at Holiday Inn in Dubuque, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. Attending were vice-president Pip Fisher, secretary Rex Rundquist, and directors at large Candace Havely, Kevin Murphy, and Diane Dentlinger. Attending as guests were Ann Johnson, Cecille Thompson, and Paul Hertzel.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 2016 Board of Directors meetings have been published on the I.O.U. website. The minutes have been reviewed and revised by the Board and will be presented at the general meeting today for approval.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt was absent for health reasons. Profit/loss and balance sheet comparisons were presented by Francis Moore. Comparing balances from 31 October 2016 ($76,012) with 31 October 2017 ($81,614) shows stability in our funding; however, *Iowa Bird Life* publication costs are not included in this year's totals (see attachments). A balance due to Big Bluestem Audubon has been paid ($550).

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that we have 27 new members and 71 non-renewals. Despite this, we are currently at 421 members, which is near our average (but down from 434 members in 2016).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that we are not getting renewals from libraries due to the lack of I.O.U. publications. She did not think we should be asking for dues from the libraries since we have not had I.O.U. publications to send to them for quite a while. An extended discussion ensued of possible scenarios for future editing, review and layout of *Iowa Bird Life*, perhaps done

through a team of volunteers.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel presented the minutes of the annual records committee face-to-face meeting. A listing of field reports from both 2016 and 2017 was presented, stressing that the vast majority of well-documented reports are accepted by the committee. A listing of pending reports for 2017 was also reviewed. Changes to the I.O.U. Checklist and Iowa Annual Status Report were presented and explained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ann Johnson reported that the majority of I.O.U. records at the Iowa State University library have been scanned. There are reportedly a few historical items to be recorded in some way.

NEW BUSINESS:

Francis Moore reported transition in several of the standing committees.

Tyler Harms has finished his term on projects committee. Kevin Murphy made a motion to select Coady Lundy as the new member. Candace Havely seconded. Motion carried. Rick Hollis and Paul Skrade are going off the membership committee. Diane Dentlinger made a motion to accept Cathy Konrad and Joel Haack to the membership committee. Pip Fisher seconded. Motion carried.

Jay Gilliam has finished his term on the records committee. Doug Harr has been requested to take his spot on this committee.

Francis presented the proposed events committee bylaws (compiled by Paul Roisen) for the board to review. Pip Fisher moved for approval. Candace Havely seconded. Motion carried.

Francis suggested having the annual budget meeting before the end of 2017. A definite date and location for a face-to-face meeting were undetermined. There was some discussion about the ongoing position of treasurer for the organization.

Francis made an appeal for two people to do a financial audit for I.O.U. for both 2015 and 2016.

The nominating committee will need to arrange a new slate of candidates for the coming year. Current board members with terms expiring include treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, secretary Rex Rundquist, and at large members Eric Ollie, Tyler Harms, and Candace Havely.

It was reported that I.O.U. merchandise will be available on line after the first of 2018. The membership committee will no longer by keeping an inventory of these items.

Pip Fisher reported that the spring 2018 meeting is in planning at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. There are meeting rooms and cafeteria service available. Since this date is after graduation, dormitory rooms at the school will be available for lodging. There was some concern about putting lodging into the I.O.U. meeting registration process, however various solutions to facilitate this were offered. The featured speaker has not yet been identified.

Sites for future meetings were discussed briefly. Suggestions included Hitchcock Nature Center, Lansing Nature Center, Jester Park, Centerville, Iowa City, and Black Hawk County.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pip Fisher and seconded by Kevin Murphy. Motion carried. The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Rex W. Rundquist, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

11 November 2017

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall business meeting was held at Holiday Inn in Dubuque, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. In attendance were vice-president Pip Fisher, secretary Rex Rundquist, directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Candace Havely, and Kevin Murphy, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August and November Board of Directors meetings have been published on the I.O.U. website. Paul Skrade moved to approve the minutes as published and Maria Rundquist seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Roisen reviewed the reports presented by Mary Beth Hunt in absentia. Currently we have $81,614 in assets. Membership numbers and general fund balances appear to be stable. Publication costs for *Iowa Bird Life* have not yet been deducted. There is an amount of $10,000 set aside for publication of the latest Breeding Bird Atlas. Paul recommended that the treasurer present end-of-year 2017 numbers at the 2018 Spring Meeting.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that our current membership total is at 421. Membership numbers are down from last year's 434. Current membership level is similar to previous years. There are 27 new members and 71 non-renewals from last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that she is still searching for a replacement for Steve Dinsmore as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported that summer 2017 reports are done; fall reports are pending. Doug Harr has agreed to replace Jay Gilliam who has finished his term on the committee.

Membership Committee: Karen Disbrow reported that I.O.U. logo apparel will soon be purchasable through Corporate Casuals. Members can order the items and sizes desired and simply request that the I.O.U. logo be included. New field cards (checklists) are yet to be printed.

Projects Committee: Joe Jungers was the only member of the committee present and had no report. Francis Moore mentioned that Coady Lundy had been approved by the board to replace Tyler Harms who is leaving the committee after completing his term. It was mentioned that new applications for funding will be due by mid-February 2018.

Library/Historical Committee: Candace Havely reported that the I.O.U. archives held at the Iowa State University Library are nearly all scanned and should become available over the internet.

Events Committee: Paul Roisen reported that events committee bylaws had been presented and approved by the board. This completes full committee status for this group. No new events were

mentioned.

Communications Committee: No report. Rick Hollis is managing the Facebook page and requested photos from this meeting for posting there.

Meetings: Vice-president Pip Fisher reported that the spring 2018 meeting is currently in planning at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. There are meeting rooms and cafeteria service available. Since this date is after graduation, dormitory rooms at the school will be available for lodging. The featured speaker has not yet been identified.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Francis again made an appeal for two people to do a financial audit for I.O.U. for both 2015 and 2016.

He explained that there would be no silent auction for this meeting (John Cecil is unable to attend). The silent auction will be resumed at the spring 2018 Meeting.

Stuart Sparkman moved for adjournment; seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Rex W, Rundquist, Secretary



Eastern Screech-Owl, 3 September 2016, Saylorville Reservoir, Polk. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports and photos to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3], October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

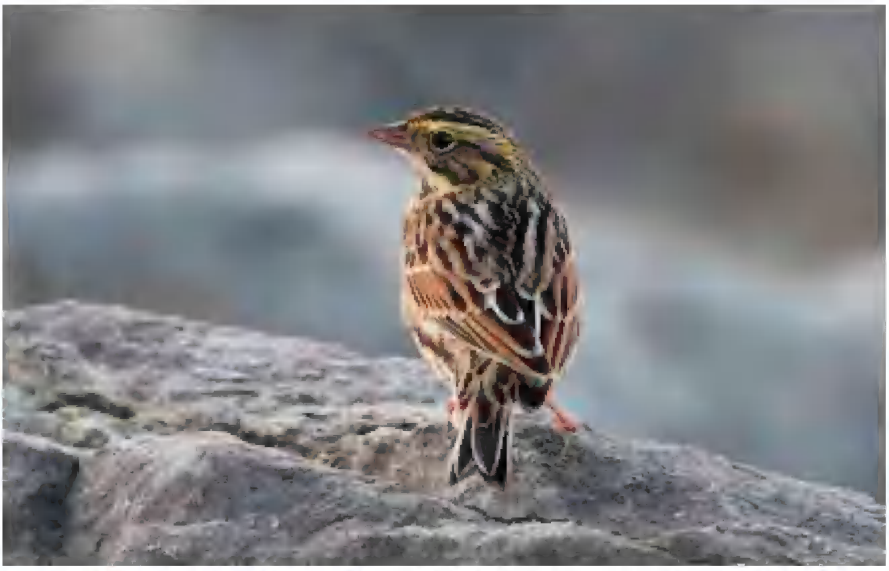
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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.: Fall: 28–30 September 2018, Ventura.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Inca Dove, Altoona, *Polk* 23 September 2016. Photograph by Melissa Cory, Altoona, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Savannah Sparrow, Lake Macbride, *Johnson*, 29 October 2016. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

LAYOUT: Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA
PRINTER: Centennial Printing, Louisville, CO



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IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Spring 2017 . Volume 87 . Number 2

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Meet Two Iowa Birders
Loren and Babs Padelford

Janis Paseka

"Iowa birders?" you ask."Aren't the Padelfords from Nebraska?" They do indeed live in Nebraska, but just barely. Their home is in Bellevue, less than a mile from Iowa as the crow flies. They are multi-state birders, having lived and birded in a number of states, and their history together pivots around rockets and chickens. More on that later.

Babs is a Florida native. She was born in Jacksonville, graduated from Robert E. Lee High School there,and earned a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature in 1962 from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida.

Loren began life in Worthington, Minnesota, and his family later moved to Michigan, where he graduated from high school in Belleville. From there he went to Florida, attending the University of South Florida and graduating from the University of Florida in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering.



Figure 1. Loren and Babs Padelford, Ft. Robinson State Park, Dawes, NE, *18 May 2018. Photograph by Janis Paseka, Ames, NE*

Now we come to the rockets. Sometimes when two people meet and are immediately attracted to each other, it's said that there were fireworks. When Loren met Babs in 1962, there weren't just fireworks. There were rockets. Lots of them. Babs and Loren met at Cape Canaveral, Florida. They were both working for NASA, Loren as a work-study student and Babs as a secretary in the personnel department. They were there in the days when rockets were being perfected, and they witnessed many mishaps. They were also present for the launch of John Glenn into orbit and the first launch of the Saturn I rocket. Loren's work there involved wiring on the Saturn I rocket and sometimes took him out to the gantry where the rocket stood. Loren and Babs don't have much of a bird list to show for those early years, but between courtship and

rocketry, one could assume there was plenty going on in their lives.

Babs and Loren were married in 1963 in Palatka, Florida, and lived in Cocoa Beach, Gainesville, and St. Petersburg after that. In 1966, Loren joined the United States Air Force and reported for duty at Offutt AFB in Bellevue, Nebraska, where he worked as a computer programmer for four years.

Now we come to the chickens. It was during this time that their interest in birding began in earnest. And it started with chickens. While feeding table scraps to their neighbors' chickens near their home in Bellevue in 1969, Babs and Loren were approached by Carl Swanson, a "semi-hermit" living on the edge of Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue. Swanson had a habit of hiking through the Forest, recording bird songs on a Norelco recorder. He had become quite knowledgeable and wanted to share what he had learned. He asked if they would like to have birdsong classes in their home. Somehow, this didn't seem like a crazy request, coming from a stranger they had just met, and they recognized that this reclusive man had much to offer. They invited a group of friends and had weekly gatherings for about two years, learning bird songs from his recordings. They "graduated" after they could identify all the common birds by their songs, becoming auditory birders before they were visual birders. Members of their class were molded into birders by Swanson's tutelage, and several were instrumental in organizing the Audubon Society of Omaha and many served as officers of the organization. Loren was president in 1972–1973. Despite the pivotal role played by the chickens in starting the Padelfords on their path to becoming world-class birders, chickens (aka Jungle Fowl) are still not a countable species in Nebraska.

The Padelfords have been doing Christmas Bird Counts in Omaha since 1970. They remember their first CBC. It was a cold, snowy day, and by noontime there were blizzard conditions. They put chains on the car and birded their appointed area only to learn later that everyone else had gone home. Being novice birders, they didn't count the flock of Common Redpolls they saw, because they didn't think anyone would believe them.

In 1973, the Padelfords moved to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, where they both worked for Sperry Univac. They thoroughly enjoyed their 3 1/2 years there getting acquainted with northern birds. Evening Grosbeaks were regulars at their winter bird feeders.

After their years in Ottawa, Loren and Babs moved back to Bellevue, and Loren worked for Northern Natural Gas while pursuing an MBA at Creighton University, which he received in 1986. During this time, Babs dusted off her English degree and wrote, with co-authors Ross Silcock and Tanya Bray, *The Birds of Nebraska: A Critically Evaluated List,* published in 1986. They did Breeding Bird Surveys in Nebraska for more than 20 years, and both have been on and off the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union Records Committee since its inception in 1986.

The Padelfords were contacted in the fall of 1992 by raptor biologist Jon Stravers, who asked if they knew anyone who would be interested in doing a fall hawkwatch at Hitchcock Nature Area north of Crescent, Iowa. Hitchcock is nestled in the Loess Hills along the western edge of Iowa, where the combination of the hills, the broad expanse

of the adjacent Missouri River Valley and the prevailing westerly winds create an ideal "hawk highway" for thousands of raptors taking advantage of thermals as they continue their flight south. Since Loren had retired that summer from his career as a computer systems analyst with Electronic Data Systems and Enron, it seemed like the perfect time to give it a try themselves. They conducted a hawkwatch there from 1992 through 1996, and in 1998 it was restarted by Mark Orsag. The watch is now funded by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board and operates with a paid counter and many volunteers who watch between September 1 and mid-December from a 50-foot tower adjacent to the Hitchcock Nature Center Lodge. Hitchcock also has a raptor banding station, which collects information on migrating raptors not available through hawkwatching. Hitchcock was the first designated Iowa Important Bird Area.

In addition to birding, Babs and Loren have conducted North American Butterfly Association counts for the last 32 years. Their interest in butterflies led to an interest in dragonflies and damselflies and then to a fascination with wasps. More recently, they have been immersed in the study of moths. They are editors of insects for Nature-Search, a website cataloging every living thing in Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods Nature Centers in Bellevue and Omaha. They have contributed more than 4,600 photos to BugGuide, a website maintained by Iowa State University, with images and information about North American insects and spiders. They have attended four Bug-Guide Gatherings, the first in 2011 in Ames, Iowa, the second in 2012 in Mobile, Alabama, the third in 2013 in Green Valley, Arizona, and the fourth in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in late July 2018. Gatherings are meetings attended by contributors for a weekend of insect study, and of course, if birds are present, birding happens, too.

One of the Padelfords' favorite places to bird in Nebraska is their family room, where they can watch their feeders and birdbath on the deck. They have had many good sightings over the years, the best being the Brambling they spotted as they ate breakfast on the morning of 8 January 2017. That one will be hard to top. It was Loren's 400th Nebraska bird and Babs' 401st. They spend a lot of time in Fontenelle Forest birding and photographing insects. They also make annual pilgrimages to western Nebraska and to central Nebraska to see the Sandhill Cranes.

One of their favorite places in Iowa is Lake Manawa for fall, winter, and spring birds. Lake Manawa is included in the Omaha Christmas Bird Count, and over the years some good species have been spotted there during the counts, including Ross's Gull and Slaty-backed Gull. Another place they visit several times a year is Waubonsie State Park to bird and conduct butterfly counts. They have birded many places in Iowa, often when they are chasing a rare bird. Other favorite places include the Rio Grande Valley of Texas and Southeast Arizona. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the I-19 Canoa Ranch Rest Area northbound in Arizona, the Taj Mahal of rest areas, photographing insects and rattlesnakes. In addition to birding in Canada, they have birded in Great Britain, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, and New Zealand. Jamaica is on their wish list for a future trip.

In Memoriam: Milton W. Weller

James J. Dinsmore

Milton Weller, a world-renowned waterfowl biologist/wetland ecologist died on 19 December 2017 in Orange City, Florida after a long illness. He was 88 and is survived by his wife of 70 years, Doris and one son. Although Weller's name is probably not familiar to most I.O.U. members, he was a member of the organization from 1958–1980, attended I.O.U. meetings, and published several papers and notes in *Iowa Bird Life* including the first report of a Cattle Egret in Iowa.

Milton Weller was born in St. Louis, Missouri and after completing B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Missouri, joined the faculty at Iowa State University in 1957 where a new major in Fish and Wildlife Management was being developed. He remained there until 1974 when he moved to the University of Minnesota and later to Texas A & M University in 1982. He retired in 1994 and spent his retirement years in Texas and Florida.

His early work involved studies of nest parasitism by Redheads and later Black-headed Ducks. His research took him to prairie marshes in Canada, Alaska tundra, Argentina, New Zealand, and numerous other places. In Iowa, most of his graduate students worked on waterfowl or other marsh birds in the Iowa Great Lakes region, especially on wetlands near Ruthven in Clay and Palo Alto counties. He also did an intensive study of marsh birds on Little Wall and Anderson lakes near Jewell in central Iowa. Much of his work centered on the interplay between changing water conditions (especially on prairie wetlands), the vegetation that occupied those wetlands, and the birds that used them. This work led to several pioneering papers on managing wetlands for birds and other wildlife which are still widely cited by others. He also wrote several books including two on wetland ecology which are considered classics in the field.

Besides his work on wetlands and waterfowl, a lasting legacy of Milton Weller was his work with students. He was an excellent teacher, and many of the hundreds of undergraduates who took ornithology and other classes from him went on to graduate study elsewhere and careers in wildlife biology. He directed the studies of about 50 graduate students, being a strong mentor to their development and emphasizing basic science as the foundation for their work. Many of those students went on to careers in areas related to wetlands/waterfowl/wildlife biology.

This writer was one of those who benefitted from Milton Weller's skills as a teacher and advisor. As a freshman at Iowa State I was majoring in mathematics, a field in which I had little real interest. I had a lifelong interest in birds but didn't see how studying birds could lead to a rewarding career. I well remember meeting with Dr.

Weller and during that meeting learning that there were careers available for people like me who wanted to study the ecology and conservation of wildlife, especially birds. I changed my major, met others with interests similar to mine, and was hooked. And one quarter, when my grades suffered after I joined a fraternity, I got a not-so-gentle reminder from him that I could do better. That first meeting and the advice I received were significant in leading me to my career in ornithology. I was fortunate to have his wise counsel at Iowa State, and it had a lasting effect on me. When I joined the Iowa State faculty in 1975, it was his former faculty position that I filled. Although not a birder, his work and that of students who he inspired has had a lasting impact on birds and especially wetland birds in Iowa.

The following are a number of Weller's papers related to studies of Iowa birds:

Weller, Milton W. 1961. Cattle Egret and other uncommon Iowa water-birds. *Iowa Bird Life* 31:44-45.

Weller, Milton W. 1961. Breeding biology of the Least Bittern. *Wilson Bulletin* 73:11-35.

Weller, Milton W., Leigh H. Fredrickson, and Fred W. Kent. 1963. Small mammal prey of some owls wintering in Iowa. *Iowa State Journal of Science* 38:151-160.

Weller, Milton W. 1964. Habitat utilization of two species of buteos wintering in central Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 34:58-62.

Weller, Milton W. 1965. Bursa regression, gonad cycle and molt of the Great-horned Owl. *Bird-Banding* 36:102-112.

Weller, Milton W., and Cecil S. Spatcher. 1965. Role of habitat in the distribution and abundance of marsh birds. *Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, Special Report* no. 43.

Weller, Milton W. 1969. Distribution of the Yellow-headed Blackbird in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 39:3-5.

Weller, Milton W., and Leigh B. Fredrickson. 1974. Avian ecology of a managed glacial marsh. *Living Bird* 12:269-291.

Weller, Milton W. 1979. Birds of some Iowa wetlands in relation to concepts of faunal preservation. *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science* 86:81-88.

Weller, M. W. 1979. Density and habitat relationships of Blue-winged Teal nesting in northwestern Iowa. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 43:367-374.

Weller, M. W., and D. K. Voigts. 1983. Changes in the vegetation and wildlife use of a small prairie wetland following a drought. *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science* 90:50-54.

Weller, M. W., G. W. Kaufmann, and P. A. Vohs. 1991. Evaluation of wetland development and waterbird response at Elk Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lake Mills, Iowa, 1961 to 1990. *Wetlands* 11:245-262.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The June 1967 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* contains an interesting variety of articles. In the lead article, John Faaborg presents his observations of a large colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons on Goose Lake north of Jefferson. The colony, which had as many as 150 nests, was located in an old grove of trees that was flooded by the lake.

In a study of use of bluebird nest boxes in Dallas and Boone counties, Stephen Patterson found that Eastern Bluebirds were the most common species nesting in boxes placed in areas of intensive agriculture or mixed farmed/timbered land and House Wrens were the most common in nest boxes placed in timbered areas. Overall, House Wrens laid more eggs and produced more young than did Eastern Bluebirds. House Sparrows nesting in the bluebird nest boxes were a major problem. More than 150 of their nests were removed during the summer of study.

The longest article in the issue was the report on the spring 1967 Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting which was held at Iowa State University. The meeting was well attended with 113 people registered and a program that included talks on Hawaiian birds, bluebirds, and nesting Cliff Swallows. It was announced at the meeting that the newspaper plant that printed *Iowa Bird Life* for the organization had burned to the ground the previous night and presumably the cover plate and material for the next issue (this one) had been destroyed. Despite that setback, birding was good and the meeting list had a record total of 173 species.

In an article on starlings and health, S. L. Diesch and Keith Long discussed a number of health issues that can be a concern when bird droppings accumulate at large roosts. They described efforts to use distress calls to get starlings to move away from a traditional roosting area near the university hospital in Iowa City. The results from this study seemed to be promising in providing a way to get starlings to move their roosting site.

The field reports for spring 1967 indicated that a good variety of some migrants such as waterfowl and shorebirds was found this spring but it was a relatively poor migration for warblers and vireos. Among the short notes, a Common Raven was reported near Mason City and an Anhinga was found near Gladbrook.

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Field Reports – Winter 2016–2017

Francis L. Moore



Francis L. Moore

WEATHER

This winter season had below normal temperatures in December and above normal temperatures in January and February with above normal precipitation during the first two months and slightly below normal precipitation during the last month of the season. There were five rain/snow events during December, with multiple rain events and only one snow event of consequence in January. There were only two measurable snow events during February with several rain events during the month.

December began and ended with an extended period of warmer than normal weather while below normal temperatures prevailed each day from the 7th through the 19th. The most noteworthy temperature event of the month was the cold weather on the 18th. Morning low temperatures on the 18th varied from −18°F at Keokuk to −29°F at Rock Rapids. Meanwhile, wind chill indices dropped as low as −46°F at Estherville and Spencer. Soils began to freeze with the arrival of colder air on the 7th and quickly extended to about a foot beneath the surface by the 20th across much of central and southern Iowa where little or no snow cover existed. However, warmer weather late in the month, plus a widespread Christmas Day rain, partially or completely thawed soils over southern Iowa by the end of the month. The month's highest temperature was recorded at Keokuk on Christmas night with a 60°F reading. Precipitation was relatively frequent during the month, but with plenty of breaks between events. The first widespread snow of the season arrived on the 3rd and 4th with snow accumulating at all but a few far southern Iowa locations. Widespread snow also fell over all but far southern-southwestern Iowa on the 10th and 11th with a few totals of six inches over the far north/northeast. Snow also fell statewide on the 16th and 17th with greatest amounts again over the northeast corner of Iowa. The last and largest precipitation event of the month came on Christmas Day and brought a statewide average of 0.63 inches of rain. Monthly precipitation totals were generally well above normal across the northwest one-half of the state. Precipitation totals varied from 0.82 inches at Sac City to 2.91 inches at Saint Ansgar. Snowfall totals varied from an inch at Allerton, Clarinda, and Red Oak to 20.8 inches at Saint

Ansgar. The statewide average snowfall was 8.2 inches or 0.1 inches less than average. This ranks as the 40th greatest December snowfall among 130 years of records.

Relatively mild air prevailed across Iowa for most of January. There were only seven days (4th through 8th and 12th through 13th) averaging cooler than usual. Lowest temperatures were −14°F readings at Northwood, Postville, and Cresco on the morning of the 6th and again at Cresco on the morning of the 8th. Subzero temperatures were recorded only once during the second one-half of the month when Cresco registered −2°F on the morning of the 30th. Meanwhile, daily maximum reached 58°F at Shenandoah on the afternoon of the 30th. Monthly precipitation totals were above normal at all but a handful of scattered locations during January. January precipitation amounts varied from 0.62 inches at Rock Rapids to 2.89 inches at Waterloo (where this was the third wettest January among 133 years of records). Much of this precipitation came in the form of rain. The most notable of these rain events was the mid-month storm that brought considerable freezing rain to all but the far southeast corner of Iowa. Unseasonably heavy rain of a half-inch or more also fell over parts of central and northeast Iowa on the 10th. The only snow event of consequence was a large one on the 25th and 26th. Six inches or more of snow fell across all of northwest and north central Iowa with Mason City reporting the most snow with 15.0 inches. Monthly snow totals varied from only a trace at Fairfield to 15.7 inches at Mason City. A statewide average of 4.5 inches of snow fell during the month, 3.0 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 31st-lowest January snow total among 130 years of records.

Temperatures averaged near seasonal norms for the first nine days of the month. However, warmer than normal weather prevailed for all but one (25th) of the remaining days of February. This February brought eight days of 70°F weather with seven of those coming consecutively from the 16th through the 22nd and one more on the last day of the month. Prior to this year no single February brought more than four days of 70°F weather (1930, 1981, and 1996). On the other extreme Little Sioux recorded the only subzero temperature of the month with a –3°F reading on the morning of the 9th. There were only two measurable snow events during the month. The first one on the 8th brought snow to about the southern two-thirds of the state with greatest amounts falling across west central and south central Iowa where Indianola picked up 6.1 inches. The second and much more intense event brought snow to all of the state on the 23rd and 24th. Heaviest snow fell across the northwest where 12.5 inches fell near West Bend and 12.0 inches at Algona. Wind gusts up to 48 mph brought blizzard conditions across about the northwest one-quarter of the state with this late month storm. Monthly snow totals varied from only 0.03 inches at Manchester to 13.6 inches at Little Sioux. This ranks as the 43rd-lowest February snow total among 130 years of records. There were also several rain events during the month with the largest coming on the 20th when rain fell statewide with totals of an inch or more falling over parts of north central and northeast Iowa. Monthly precipitation totals varied from only 0.20 inches at Allerton to 2.78 inches at Nashua. Thunderstorms developed across eastern Iowa during the late afternoon of the 28th and brought one brief tornado in Clinton County and

large hail reports from eleven east central and southeast Iowa counties. Only two other February tornados have been recorded in Iowa (1 February 1922 at Monticello and 23 February 1977 at Mason City).

Temperatures over the three mid-winter months averaged 26.8°F or 4.7°F above normal while precipitation totaled 4.17 inches or 0.83 inches above normal. This ranks as the 9th-warmest and 31st-wettest winter among 144 years of records. Six of the top ten warmest winters have come within the past 20 years.

GENERAL TRENDS

Highest numbers of waterfowl reports were from December and February with fewer found in January. Overall duck numbers were below average during the period with most of the reports and higher numbers showing up on and after 13 February. All three scoter species plus Long-tailed Duck made a showing during the period.

Most gallinaceous bird numbers were still on the low side with only Wild Turkey showing average. There were only two reports each of Northern Bobwhite and Gray Partridge, indicating that these species are still not doing well. American White Pelicans were found in good numbers at Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs and at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River throughout the period. There were multiple late winter reports of Turkey Vulture this year beginning on 14 February. Bald Eagles were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River and at the Army Corps of Engineers impoundments but were also down from last year. Reports of accipiters were still low this season with below average numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks found and a lower than usual number of Cooper's Hawks again this winter. Northern Shrikes were found in good numbers throughout the state.

Gull reports were widespread in all three months. For northern owl species, Snowy Owls were found in below average numbers and there were good numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls at the usual locations. Long-eared Owls were more abundant in February and Short-eared Owls were more numerous in December and January. Merlins were widely reported but only a few Peregrine and Prairie falcons were noted.

Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were more numerous in December and January with a few records from February, mostly in the northern and central parts of the state. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Blackbirds made a good showing throughout the period. Winter finch numbers were up from last year with reports of both species of crossbills, Common Redpolls, and a few Pine Siskins. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue to expand their range with several found in Buchanan and Appanoose counties.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The records committee accepted six records of casual and accidental species this winter: Brant, Great Black-backed Gull, Slaty-backed Gull, California Gull, Say's Phoebe, and Lark Bunting.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental, * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **A** = area, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **SP** = state park, **SRA** = state recreation area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: There were a few records from December and January, with most records from February. Highest numbers were 6000 on 14 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (BSc), 10,000 on 16 Feb at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (GLV), and 16,000 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM).



Greater White-fronted Goose, North Liberty, Johnson, 31 December 2016. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.

Snow Goose: Highest numbers were 75,000 on 16 Feb at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (GLV), 23,000 on 17 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR), 100,000 on 18 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV), 25,000 on 19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 13,000 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM). There was one report of a Snow Goose x Canada Goose hybrid at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Ross's Goose: There were 35 reports with high counts of 45 on 5 Dec at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 845 on 19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 1300 on 26 Feb *Ringgold* (JG), and 100 on 28 Feb at High Amana M *Iowa* (JF).

BRANT: One on 7 Dec at John Deere Pond *Black Hawk* (*TGS).

Cackling Goose: There were 31 reports during the period with the highest of 55 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk), 120 on 26 Dec at Morningstar airport pits *Polk* (AB), and 70 on 15 Jan *Story* (AB).

Canada Goose: Flocks of several thousand were fairly common throughout the period at various locations around the state. The largest concentrations were 15,500 on 7 Jan at Green Valley SP *Union* (JG) and 35,000 on 18 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV).

Mute Swan: One report this year: 1 on 9 Jan at Trumpeter M *Lee* (JLF).

Trumpeter Swan: There were 66 reports from around the state this year. Highest counts were 142 on 17 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Madison* (JG), 131 on 20 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 270 on 7 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Madison* (JG), and 362 on 12 Jan at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (SJD).

Tundra Swan: There were 24 reports with a high count of 120 on 8 Dec

on Red Oak Road *Allamakee* (BR), 4 on 1 Jan at Dale Maffitt Res *Madison* (JG), and 3 on 4 Jan at Mississippi R *Clayton* (*KJM).

Wood Duck: Sixteen reports this year included 1 on 24 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM), 2 on 1 Jan at Morningstar airport pits *Polk* (RLC), and 3 on 6–8 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

Gadwall: Reported throughout the period. There were 13 reports in December with a peak of 60 on 5 Dec at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 8 reports in January with a peak of 7 on 4 Jan at Red Oak Road *Allamakee* (BR), and 16 reports in February with a peak of 300 on 25 Feb at Lily Pond, Amana *Iowa* (LGR).

American Wigeon: There were 23 reports this year with a high of 4 on 15 Dec at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (RLC), 2 on 4 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), and 30 on 27 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

American Black Duck: There were 42 reports with all but 3 from east and central Iowa this season. High numbers were 6 on 2 Jan at Cedar R, Charles City *Floyd* (DAk).

Mallard: The highest numbers reported were 2000 on 5 Dec at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV), 2100 on 13 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 3441 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM).

Blue-winged Teal: Only one report: 2 males on 27 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD–ph).

Cinnamon Teal: One report of 1 on 11 Dec at Slater Sewage Lagoons *Story* (AB, HZ–ph, RLC).

Northern Shoveler: Highest number reported: 230 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Other high numbers by month: 1 on 6 Jan *Polk* (JG) and 20 on 27 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

Northern Pintail: There were 37 reports for the period. High counts were 14 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 980 on 13 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 786 on 13 Feb *Marion* (DAk), 1012 on 17 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV), and 1130 on 23 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Green-winged Teal: High counts by month were 55 on 3 Dec *Marion* (AB), 1 on 22–27 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), and 400 on 27 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

Canvasback: A total of 22 reports were submitted with high counts of 220 on 8 Dec *Allamakee* (BR), 57 on 20 Feb at Big Creek SP *Polk* (JG), and 500 on 25 Feb at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Redhead: High counts were 57 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk), 23 on 13 Feb *Marion* (DAk), and 66 on 26 Feb *Polk* (AB).



Redhead, North Liberty, Lock & Dam 14, Scott, *8 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*

Ring-necked Duck: Highest numbers were 73 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 99 on 21 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), 89 on 28 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), 140 on 26 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (JG), and 200 on 27 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

Greater Scaup: There were 18 reports this season with high counts of 6 on 5 Dec at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 4 on 10 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 14 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk).

Lesser Scaup: A total of 37 reports this winter. High counts: 205 on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 140 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk), 100 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa & Muscatine* (KJM), and 147 on 26 Feb *Polk* (AB).

Surf Scoter: All: 1 juv on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB–ph).

White-winged Scoter: All: 1 juv on 13–18 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (AB–ph, MHB) and 1 juv female on 28 Jan at Sun Valley L *Ringgold* (SJD–ph).

Black Scoter: All: 1 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 on 8 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), and 1 on 28 Feb at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (AB, JG, RIA, PHA).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 juv female on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB–ph), 1 ad female on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, RLC), 1 on 14 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (AB), 1 female on 15 Dec – 19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF, TGS, AB–ph, JG, MP, DTh, RIA, PHA, DAk–ph, several suggested overwintering), 1 juv female on 19 Dec – 7 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, JLF, MHB), 1 juv female on 19 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 1 on 9 Jan at Fort Madison Riverfront P *Lee* (JLF), 1 juv female and 1 ad female on 22 Jan at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 1 female on 1 Feb at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (DTh), and 2 on 14 Feb at Pool 13 *Clinton* (JF).

Bufflehead: There were 27 reports with highs of 46 on 5 Dec *Palo Alto* (DAk), 45 on 15 Dec Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), and 180 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, RLC).

Common Goldeneye: High counts were 190 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk), 601 on 23 Dec at Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM), 2940 on 24 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM), and 850 on 25 Jan at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Hooded Merganser: High counts: 32 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS), 57 on 3 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS), 98 on 5 Dec at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (DTh), 35 on 16 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), and 22 on 16 Feb at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG).

Common Merganser: There were 46 reports of this species. High counts: 4500 on 16 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), 1600 on 24 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM), 2800 on 22 Jan *Marion* (AB), 2700 on 28 Jan at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (JG), 3300 on 11 Feb *Marion* (AB), 5390 on 13 Feb *Marion* (DAk), and 1700 on 23 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

Red-breasted Merganser: There were 14 reports. Highest numbers were 39 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS), 42 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk), and 65 on 13 Feb *Marion* (DAk).

Ruddy Duck: There were 15 reports with high counts of 485 on 3 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), 52 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 90 on 5 Dec

at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), and 58 on 5 Dec *Palo Alto* (DAk).

Northern Bobwhite: Two reports: 1 on 21 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR) and 14 on 26 Feb *Ringgold* (JG).

Gray Partridge: Only 2 reports this winter season with 15 on 24 Dec *Buena Vista* (DAk) and 17 on 8 Jan at Lime Springs *Howard* (LR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: There were 18 reports with the following high counts: 25 on 24 Dec *Buena Vista* (DAk), 18 on 24 Dec *Calhoun* (DAk), and 55 on 8 Jan at Lime Springs *Howard* (LR).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Two reports: 1 female was seen and photographed on 31 Dec – 5 Jan at Kingsley *Plymouth* (Loren Hansen, *fide* JJD). This bird, almost certainly a wanderer from the north, fits a pattern of at least 7 other reports since 1979. Also 11 were reported on 26 Feb at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (JG).

Wild Turkey: Highs: 146 on 19 Dec *Woodbury* (GLV) and 114 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Pied-billed Grebe: Fifteen reports, 14 from the central and eastern part of the state and one from the west. Reports came from December (6) and February (9).

Horned Grebe: All: 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 2 on 5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG), and 1 on 9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Red-necked Grebe: Two reports: 1 continuing from fall on 3–4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB) and 1 with photos on 17 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG–ph).

Eared Grebe: One report: 1 on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Western Grebe: Three reports: 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, JF, SJD), 1 on 3–5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD, AB, DTh, JG), and 1 on 11 Dec at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Highest counts were 33 on 1 Jan at Solon *Johnson* (JLF), 40 on 21 Jan *Dallas* (AB) and 34 on 9 Feb at Brenton Feed Lot *Dallas* (RLC).

Mourning Dove: There were 46 reports this winter with high counts of 117 on 14 Dec *Clinton* & *Jackson* (KJM), 244 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* & *Louisa* (KJM) and 167 on 23 Dec *Scott* & *Louisa* (KJM).

Rufous Hummingbird: One continuing from fall on 1–15 Dec at North Liberty *Johnson* (MHB).

American Coot: There were 25 reports with highs of 40 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 40 on 8 Dec at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (BR), 65 on 14 Dec *Dickinson* (DAk) and 100 on 27 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

Sandhill Crane: There were 11 reports this winter with high counts of 12 on 4 Dec *Allamakee* (BR), 10 on 18 Dec at Muskrat Slough WA *Jones* (JF) and 12 on 22 Feb *Allamakee* (BR).

Killdeer: There were 38 reports with highs of 145 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), 15 on 22 Feb *Muscatine* (KJM), and 16 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM).

Dunlin: All: 3 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

Least Sandpiper: Eighteen on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, details).

Pectoral Sandpiper: One on 27 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD–ph).

Wilson's Snipe: Four reports: 1 on

15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 1 on 31 Dec at Saylorville WA *Boone* (WO), 1 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and 1 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* (KJM).

American Woodcock: Five reports: 1 on 17 Feb at Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 4 on 20 Feb *Warren* (JG), 1 on 20 Feb at Dudgeon Lake WA *Benton* (CRE), 3–8 on 21–28 Feb at Red Feather Prairie, *Polk* (RIA, PHA, JB, AB), and 1 on 21 Feb *Dickinson* (DAk).

Greater Yellowlegs: Two reports: 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and 1 on 27 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD–ph).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: 35 on 4 Dec *Polk* (AB), 4 on 5 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), 1 on 8 Dec at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (BR), 1 on 9 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), 2 on 11 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 12 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF).

Franklin's Gull: All: 1 on 3 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), 1 on 6 Dec at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (MP), and 1 on 23 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG, RLC, DTh).

Ring-billed Gull: There were 45 reports with high counts of 3320–6600 on 13–19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DAk, AB) and 2200–3450 on 23–25 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JG).

CALIFORNIA GULL: One on 8 Jan at Morningstar airport pits *Polk* (MG).

Herring Gull: High counts: 160 on 10 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 195 on 24 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott* & *Muscatine* (KJM) and 116 on 13 Feb *Marion* (DAk).

Thayer's Gull: There were 30 reports during the winter reporting period, mostly of 1 or 2 individuals and mostly from the large reservoirs and along the Mississippi R. One exception was a high of 8 on 16 Dec at the hydro dam in Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF).

Iceland Gull: Four reports this winter: 1 ad on 29 Jan at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), 1 1st-cycle on 12 Feb at Nahant M *Scott* (JF), 1 ad on 17–19 Feb at Big Creek SP/ Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB–ph), and 1 2nd-cycle on 26–28 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD–ph).



Thayer's Gull, Iowa River, Johnson, *29 January 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull: This species was widely reported in gull flocks in central and eastern Iowa. The only exception to this pattern was 1 ad on 12 Dec at Smith's Bay, W Okoboji L *Dickinson* (DAk). At least 4 (1 ad, 1 1st-cycle, 1 2nd-cycle, 1 3rd-cycle) were seen 11 Dec – 11 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (m.ob.). Farther upstream at least 3 (1 ad, 2 2nd-cycle) were seen 14–26 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DCH, AB, RLC, DTh) and at least 4 (2 ad, 1 2nd-cycle and 1 3rd-cycle) on 23 Dec – 2 Jan at Morningstar airport

pits *Polk* (m.ob.). At Cedar L *Linn* 1 2nd-cycle was present 19 Feb (JF). One ad and 1 1st-cycle were reported on 19–24 Feb at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF, AB). There was 1 1st-cycle on 16 Dec at Ottumwa *Wapello* (JF). The remaining reports were from the Mississippi R with 2 ad on 18 Feb at Sabula *Jackson* (JF) and at least 1 ad, 1 1st-cycle, 1 2nd-cycle, and 2 3rd-cycle on 19 Dec – 27 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, MHB).

SLATY-BACKED GULL: One ad on 23–28 Dec at Morningstar airport pits *Polk* (*AB–ph, *BC, *TMH, JG, DAk, SJD).

Glaucous Gull: Four reports again this season: 1 juv on 11 Dec – 19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB–ph, m.ob.), 1 juv on 24–28 Dec at Morningstar airport pits *Polk* (AB–ph, m.ob.), 1 ad, 2 1st-cycle on 14 Dec – 15 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (JF, MHB, JLF, AB–ph), and 1 1st-cycle on 21–27 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One 1st-cycle was found on 20 Dec – 13 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (*JF, *LGR, *MHB, *AB–ph, JLF).

Pacific Loon: Two reported: 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD–ph) and 1 on 4–9 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JG).

Common Loon: All: 1–3 on 2–11 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB) and 24–30 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF, AB, SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were only 7 reports, all in December with 2–236 on 1–10 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB), 1 on 8 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), 1 on 10 Dec at Coralville dam *Johnson* (MHB), and 2 on 17 Dec at Dale Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG).

American White Pelican: There were 22 reports throughout the period, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Red Rock Res *Marion*. High counts were 290 on 1 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 211 on 6 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 115+ on 7 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MP), and 185 on 19 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE).

Great Blue Heron: There were 19 reports submitted with a high count of 12 on 18 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM).

Cattle Egret: There were two reports of this species this winter: 1–3 on 1–3 Dec at Heron Bend Conservation A *Lee* (JLF) and 1 on 2 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, MHB).

Turkey Vulture: There were 7 reports this year, a more usual number for winter. All reports were from February with a high of 4 on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM) and 10 on 22 Feb at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM).

Osprey: A very late migrant, highly unusual for Iowa was 1 on 14 Dec at Bulger's Hollow, L&D 13 *Clinton* (good details, *MR, *AM, CJ, m.ob.).

Bald Eagle: Fifty-one Reports: High counts on the Mississippi R included 123 on 14 Dec *Clinton* & *Jackson* (KJM), 100 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* & *Louisa* (KJM), 173 on 24 Dec *Scott* & *Muscatine* (KJM), 109 on 13 Jan *Clinton* & *Scott* (KJM), and 154 on 14 Jan *Scott* & *Muscatine* (KJM). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 132 on 14 Dec at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 324 on 19 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 143 on 21 Feb at Union Slough NWR

Kossuth (DAk).

Northern Harrier: There were 36 reports with highs of 9 on 8 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 5 on 12 Jan *Woodbury* (GLV).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A total of 32 were reported, 1 from western Iowa, 9 in central Iowa, and 22 from eastern Iowa.

Cooper's Hawk: A total of 34 were reported, with 19 from the central and 15 from the eastern section of the state. Most reports were of single individuals with several records of 2 to 5 along the Mississippi R.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Thirteen reports with a high of 4 on 28 Jan at DeKalb WA *Decatur* (JG), the rest of the reports were of single individuals, 6 from central and 6 from eastern Iowa.

Red-tailed Hawk: There were 8 dark morph individuals reported this winter. High counts were 36 on 14 Dec *Jackson & Clinton* (KJM), 22 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 36 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (KJM), and 21 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).

Rough-legged Hawk: It was a great winter for this species with 70 reports totaling 127 individuals during the season. High counts: 5 on 20 Dec *Scott* (KJM), 6 on 8 Jan at Lime Springs *Howard* (LR), 7 on 31 Jan at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (DAk), and 7 on 11 Feb *Dickinson* (LAS). There were 11 dark morph individuals reported.

Ferruginous Hawk: One on 2 Dec at Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch *Pottawattamie* (JT).

Golden Eagle: All: 1 on 20 Dec *Allamakee* (PDBS, BR), 1 imm on 30 Dec *Sioux* (DAk), 1 imm on 31 Dec *Lyon* (DAk), 1–3 (2 juv and 1 ad) on 3–4 Jan *Clayton* (DAk, KJM), 1 sub-ad on 7 Jan at Three Mile L *Union* (JG), and 1 juv on 21 Jan at Waterman Prairie *O'Brien* (DTh).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Eighteen reports for this common nocturnal species with highs of 9 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 13 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

Great Horned Owl: There were 21 reports and a total of 70 individuals of this common species. Highs were 10 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM) and 11 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Snowy Owl: This season there were only four reports: 1 juv male on 13 Dec *Winnebago* (DAk), 1 juv on 18 Dec *Humboldt* (JN), 1 ad male on 8 Jan near Lime Springs *Howard* (LR), and 1 ad male on 18 Jan *Kossuth* (DAk).

Barred Owl: There were 20 reports of this common species during the period. Highs were 9 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (KJM) and 13 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 1 on 19 Dec at Ames State Forest Nursery *Story* (WO), 1 on 20 Dec *Buchanan* (DAk), 2 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (DAk), 9 on 8 Jan at Rubio WA *Washington* (DCP, JJ), 2 on 29 Jan – 14 Feb at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB, AB, RLC), 1 on 1 Feb at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (DTh), 9 on 3–18 Feb at West Des Moines *Polk* (DCH, WO), and 1 on 23 Feb at Nagle WA *Floyd* (CJF).

Short-eared Owl: All: 2 on 5 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV), 2 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 1 on 15 Dec 2 mi east of Ottosen *Humboldt* (JN), 1 on 15 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 1 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 1 on 20 Dec *Carroll* (WO), 1 on

22 Dec at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (AB), 1 on 30 Dec *Boone* (WO), 1 on 1 Jan 2 mi east of Gilmore City *Humboldt* (JN), 3 on 5 Jan at Mallard Flats *Madison* (JG), 5 on 8 Jan at Rubio WA *Washington* (JJ, DCP), 1 on 12 Jan near Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV), 1 on 12 Jan at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 1 on 13 Jan *Polk* (AB), 1 on 18–22 Jan *Keokuk* (JJ), 1 on 31 Jan at Iowa River Corridor *Iowa* (JF), and 2 on 31 Jan 1 mi south of Belle Plaine *Benton* (JF).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 1 on 20 Dec *Buchanan* (DAk), 1 on 27 Dec at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 29 Dec-29 Jan at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (AB, DTh, RLC, KVS, JG), 1–2 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (DAk), 1 on 8 Jan at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (DAk), 1 on 9 Jan at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 31 Jan at Ledges SP *Boone* (TMH), 1 on 5 Feb *Polk* (AB), 1 on 13 Feb at Arney Bend WA *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 26 Feb at Ingham-High Complex *Emmet* (LAS).

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 42 reports of 53 individuals with a high count of 3 on 10 Dec at Credit Island *Scott* (KJM), 3 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), and 3 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (DAk).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 13 reports this winter. High: 10 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: There were 31 reports with highs of 31 on 14 Dec *Clayton* (KJM) and 34 on 20 Dec *Buchanan* (DAk).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 on 4 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), 1 on 14 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 2 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 5 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM), 1 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), 1 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and 1 on 31 Jan *O'Brien* (DAk).

Hairy Woodpecker: There were 26 reports statewide with a high of 21 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Northern Flicker: A total of 26 reports were submitted with high counts of 15 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 14 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).

Pileated Woodpecker: A total of 40 reports of 65 individuals, all from the central and eastern sections of the state with a high of 9 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

American Kestrel: There were 43 reports of a total of 100 individuals. High counts were 8 on 20 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 22 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (KJM).

Merlin: A total of 26 were reported from 17 counties with a high of 5 on 8 Jan at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). Of those that reported races there were 5 *F. c. columbarius* and 4 *F. c. richardsonii* reported this year.

Peregrine Falcon: All: 1 ad on 13–18 Dec in Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 1 on 19 Dec – 22 Jan at L&D 19 *Lee* (SJD–ph), 1 on 9 Jan at Mississippi R Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), 1 on 14 Jan at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 1 on 12 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD–ph), and 1 ad on 22 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Muscatine* (KJM).

Prairie Falcon: All: 1 on 7 Jan at North Osage St near Creston *Union* (JG) and 1 on 13 Jan at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV).

SAY'S PHOEBE: One on 7 Dec at Fairfield *Jefferson* (*RH–ph).

Loggerhead Shrike: Only one report: 1 on 31 Dec *Union* (SJD).

Northern Shrike: There were 21

reports of 23 individuals this winter scattered mostly over the northern two-thirds of the state with 1 record from *Decatur* and 1 from *Ringgold* in the south.



Loggerhead Shrike, Union, *31 December 2016. Photograph by Stephen Dinsmore, Ames.*

Horned Lark: There were 27 reports with a high of 241 on 26 Jan at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC).

Tufted Titmouse: There were 29 reports with a high of 27 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* & *Louisa* (KJM) and 27 on 14 Feb *Clayton* (KJM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Only 22 reports of this species from throughout the state. High: 6 on 16 Dec at Centerville Res *Appanoose* (RLC) and 4 on 7 Jan at State Forest Nursery *Story* (HZ).

Brown Creeper: There were 47 reports with 145 individuals included. The highest numbers were 13 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 14 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM). The westernmost records were 1 on 31 Dec *Lyon* (DAk), 2 on 31 Dec *Sioux* (DAk), and 2 on 7 Feb at Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV).

Winter Wren: There were 21 reports from throughout the period with high counts of 6 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 3 on 24 Dec *Scott* & *Muscatine* (KJM).

Marsh Wren: All: 1 on 27 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD–ph) where it probably overwintered.

Carolina Wren: There were 23 reports this season with a total of 43 individuals. Most reports were of 1 or 2 individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of 3 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 10 on 24 Dec *Scott* & *Muscatine* (KJM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Eighteen reports this season, most of just 1–3 individuals. High counts were 6 on 4 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ) and 9 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

Eastern Bluebird: Thirty-six reports this year with high counts of 103 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 34 on 17 Dec *Linn* (KJM), and 36 on 31 Jan *O'Brien* (DAk).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: 1 on 22 Jan at Lime Creek Conservation A *Cerro Gordo* (PH), 1–3 birds from 31 Jan through 1 Feb at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (DAk, LAS), and 1 on 6–18 Feb at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (DTh, RIA, PHA, JG).

Hermit Thrush: Two on 11 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), 1 on 14 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), 3 on 19 Dec *Linn* (KJM), 1 on 19 Dec at Emma McCarthy Lee Memorial P *Story* (WO), 1 on 20 Dec at Big Creek SP *Polk* (KTM), 1 on 2 Jan at Sparks Cemetery *Boone* (LGD), and 1 on 10 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

American Robin: Numbers were good this winter with high counts of 184 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 200 on 14 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (BSc).

Gray Catbird: One report: 1 on 18 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Brown Thrasher: One report: 1 on 20 Dec *Scott* (KJM).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 2 on 7 Jan at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (VMM) and 1 on 27 Feb *Taylor* (SJD–ph).

Bohemian Waxwing: One on 16 Dec *O'Brien* (AB–ph) and 1 on 15 Jan at Cedar River Natural Resource A *Black Hawk* (TGS).

Cedar Waxwing: High counts were 68 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 55+ on 13 Jan at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), and 50+ on 4 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Widely reported along the Mississippi R where high counts included 106 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 159 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 117 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (KJM), and probably the first record for *Dubuque* was 1 on 11 Dec in Dubuque (DS). Other reports away from the Mississippi R include 1 on 20 Dec *Buchanan* (DAk), 1 on 5 Dec – 15 Feb at Ames *Story* (WO), and 1 on 9 Feb at a feeder in Centerville *Appanoose* (MS, VS, good details).

American Pipit: Two were found on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

House Finch: Thirty-three reports during the period. High counts were 63 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 95 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (KJM), and 114 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).

Purple Finch: There were 48 reports. High counts were 30 on 16 Dec *O'Brien* (AB) and 32 on 16 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Red Crossbill: There was only one report this winter after 44 reports from last winter: 8 on 24 Dec *Scott* (*BLB).

White-winged Crossbill: There was also only one report of this species this year after 36 reports from last year: 3 on 31 Jan *O'Brien* (DAk).

Common Redpoll: One report this year after 27 reports last winter: 10 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (*RRB).

Pine Siskin: There were 9 reports this season with a high count of 15 on 16 Dec *O'Brien* (AB).

American Goldfinch: High count: 45 on 23 Dec *Muscatine & Louisa* (GW).

Lapland Longspur: Twenty reports with high counts of 1300 on 13 Dec *Kossuth* (DAk) and 800 on 28 Dec at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (GLV).

Snow Bunting: The largest flocks were 250 on 19 Dec *Kossuth* (DAk) and 600 on 8 Jan near Lime Springs *Howard* (LR).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Only 9 reports this season with a high count of 2 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM); all other reports were of single individuals all from the eastern part of the state.

Spotted Towhee: All: 1 on 18 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Eastern Towhee: All: 1 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM) and 1 on 26 Feb at Turkey Ridge WA *Clarke* (JG).

American Tree Sparrow: High counts: 758 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 603 on 15 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM), and 450 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

Chipping Sparrow: Two reports: 1 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (*BLB) and 1 on 3 Feb at Quad Cities *Scott* (BLB).

Vesper Sparrow: All: 2 on 20 Dec *Scott* (KJM).

LARK BUNTING: A remarkable winter record for this species for Iowa:

1 on 10 Feb coming to a feeder west of Centerville *Appanoose* (*MS–ph, *VS, *RLC, TNJ).

Savannah Sparrow: All: 1 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (*KJM), 1 on 16 Dec at Green Island WA *Jackson* (*KJM), 1 on 17 Dec *Allamakee* (BR), 1 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (*KJM), 1 on 28 Jan at Lamoni Sewage Lagoons *Decatur* (JG), 1 on 9 Feb at Brenton Feed Lot *Dallas* (RLC), and 1 on 22 Feb *Muscatine* (KJM).

Fox Sparrow: All: 1 on 1–2 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), 1 on 7 Dec at Willowglen Nursery *Winneshiek* (LZL), 6 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 2 on 17 Dec *Linn* (KJM), 2 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 1 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (DAk), 1 on 8 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), 3 on 14 Jan at Wolf Creek County P *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 29 Jan at Hickory Grove P *Story* (HZ), 1 on 21 Feb at Goose L *Clinton* (MP), 1 on 26 Feb *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 27 Feb at Shaver P *Linn* (BSc).

Song Sparrow: There were 40 reports, mostly from the eastern and central parts of the state. High counts were 32 on 18 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and 33 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).



American Tree Sparrow, Goose Lake, Johnson, *18 February 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.*

Lincoln's Sparrow: All: 1 on 4 Dec at Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP) and 1 on 27 Feb at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SJD–ph).

Swamp Sparrow: Sixteen reports with a high count of 23 on 24 Dec *Scott & Muscatine* (KJM).

White-throated Sparrow: There were 34 reports this winter. High counts were 52 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 34 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 82 on 17 Dec *Linn* (KJM), and 32 on 12 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE).

Harris's Sparrow: There were 12 reports with high counts of 7 on 16 Dec at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (WO) and 5 on 21 Feb *Dickinson* (DAk).

White-crowned Sparrow: There were 19 reports with high counts of 30 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM) and 43 on 20 Feb *Warren* (JG). There were also 2 reports of the race *Z. l. gambelii*: 4 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (DAk) and 2 on 26 Feb *Ringgold* (JG).

Dark-eyed Junco: Oregon race individuals included 3 on 31 Dec *Sioux* (DAk), 2 on 31 Dec *Lyon* (DAk), and 4 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (DAk). High number reported was 2042 on 14 Dec *Clinton & Jackson* (KJM); next highest was 468 on 15 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts were 50,000+ on 18 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV) and 24,000+ on 21 Feb at Water Works P *Polk* (JG).

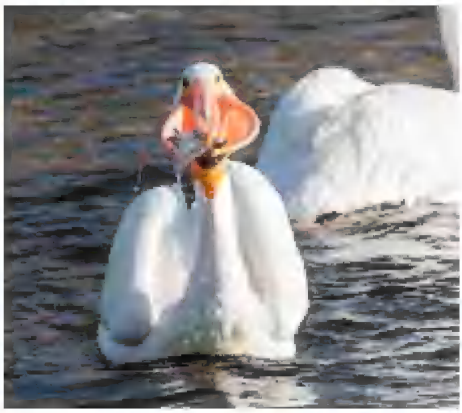
Eastern Meadowlark: There were 9 reports this winter. Heard singing were 4 on 16 Dec *Jackson* (*KJM), 10 on 17 Dec *Linn* (*KJM), 4 on 22 Feb at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 3 on 26 Feb at Kellerton



American Black Ducks, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 21 December 2016. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Cedar Rapids.*



Long-tailed Duck, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 6 January 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.*



American White Pelican, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 6 January 2017. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville.*



Canvasbacks, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 7 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*



Common Merganser, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 7 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*

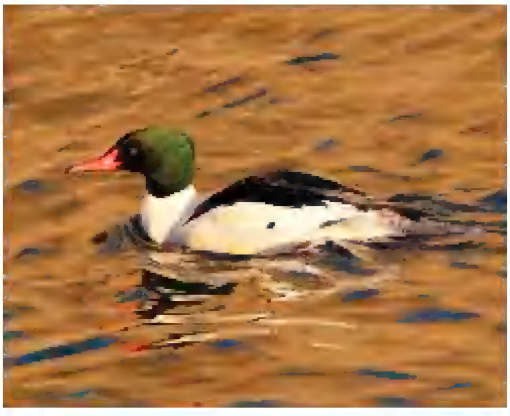


Herring Gull, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 21 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*



Glaucous Gull, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 6 January 2017. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville.*

Common Merganser, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 6 January 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.*





Rough-legged Hawk, Solon, Johnson*, 21 December 2016. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty.*



Red-shouldered Hawk, George Wyth State Park, Black Hawk*, 12 January 2017. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville.*



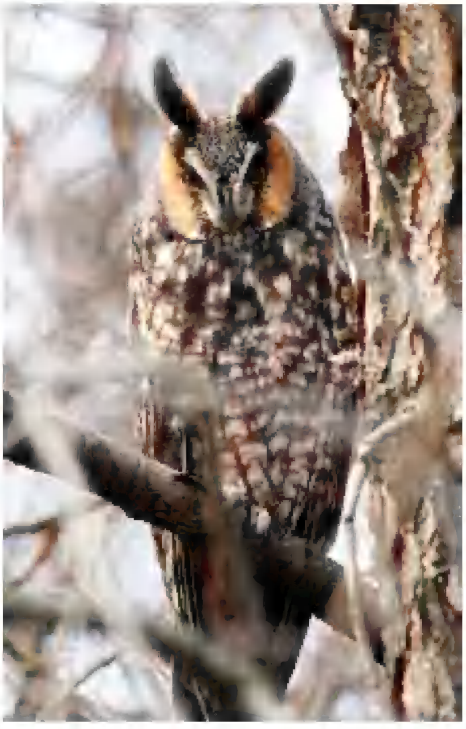
Merlin, Woodbury*, 12 January 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City.*



Rough-legged Hawk, Harrier Marsh, Boone*, 21 December 2016. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*



Northern Cardinal and Downy Woodpecker, Jefferson*, 26 December 2016. Photograph by Diane Porter, Fairfield.*



Long-eared Owl, Polk*, 6 February 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden.*



White-throated Sparrow, Iowa Arboretum, Boone*, 14 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*



Eastern Bluebird, Iowa Arboretum, Boone*, 14 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*

WA *Ringgold* (JG), 2 on 27 Feb *Taylor* (SJD), and 1 on 28 Feb at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Western Meadowlark: There were only 4 reports this winter noting vocalizations: 1 on 17 Dec *Des Moines* (JLF), 5 on 18 Dec at Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 31 Dec *Lyon* (DAk), and 1 on 17 Feb on County Hwy G40 *Marion* (JG).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: One with details on 4 Dec at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Rusty Blackbird: There were 12 reports of 121 individuals from 11 counties. High counts: 17 on 20 Feb at Dudgeon Lake WA *Benton* (CRE), 42 on 21 Feb at Water Works P *Polk* (JG), and 15 on 28 Feb at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 4 on 10 Dec at Middle Rd *Dubuque* (KS), 1 on 15 Dec southeast of Westfield *Plymouth* (GLV), 18 on 21 Feb at Waterworks P *Polk* (JG), and 4 on 22 Feb at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO).

Common Grackle: Eighteen reports with a high of 19,000 on 28 Dec at Water Works P *Polk* (JG) and 24,000 on 21 Feb at Water Works P *Polk* (JG).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 43 on 4 Dec at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) and 30–45 on 21–28 Feb at Water Works P *Polk* (JG, JB).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High count: 700 on 31 Dec south of Solon *Johnson* (MHB).

COMMENT

I really appreciate everyone submitting reports and providing material for this report. It was good to see nice details on some of the rarer species come with the documentations that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for both rare species and common species on unusual dates. Without this information, some species cannot be included in the report and an important report might be left out of the records that should be included; only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short physical description of the bird that allows for separation from any similar species. For many species, this can be one sentence. It doesn't take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time to make yourself aware of when some of our species are out of season and take short notes to make sure of the record.

Please keep entering your records on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union website so that they can continue to be added to the archives and be a part of our long-term database. We are also able to integrate eBird records into this report by downloading those records from the eBird database and merging it into the Iowa Ornithologists' Union records.

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Rough-legged Hawk, Buchanan*, 28 December 2016. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville.*



Great Black-backed Gull, Lock & Dam 14, Scott*, 6 January 2017. Photograph by Linda Ruolph, Coralville.*

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2016–2017

Chris Caster

Data were submitted for fifty-one counts this season. New to the count was NE Madison County. Returning counts were NW and SE Clayton County and Buchanan County. Recently held counts either not run or not submitted included SE Webster County, Wapello County, and Union County.

The count period began with temperatures in the high teens. Snow was a factor in the northeast. On Sunday the 18th, arctic air moved in and highs for much of the state were below zero. This impacted a number of our large counts and prompted some to reschedule. Temperatures quickly increased, though, and there was significant rainfall statewide on Christmas Day. Conditions remained mild until 4 January when single digit highs returned.

The species count of 139 was average. However, the total number of individuals (507,338) was below average and the lowest of the last seven counts. Keokuk achieved a near-record 99 species. This was especially remarkable considering that Princeton, the second-highest count, had just 89. Other high counts were Saylorville (84), Western Mercer County and Burlington (83 each), Andalusia (82), and Davenport (81). Spirit Lake (60) led the northern counts. Omaha and DeSoto NWR (73 each) led the Missouri River counts. Rathbun (71) led the southern counts. The average count this year had 13 field observers, 5.6 field parties, and 58 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

Ten species were found in record numbers this count. Waterfowl and gull numbers were quite low. Gallinaceous and frugivorous birds were a mixed bag. Raptors and sparrows were well represented this season, but blackbirds and finches were reduced. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (143,619) were typically easy to find, but the other geese were relatively scarce. Cackling Geese (967) were down from last year. Greater White-fronted Geese (108) were scattered over twelve counts with fifty at Western Mercer County. Snow Geese (322) were more widespread, but 150 were at Muscatine. Ross's Geese (6) were on two counts. Trumpeter Swans (1,298) set a new record. Their numbers on the count have increased by about a third each of the last four years. Tundra Swans (183) were nearly all at Clinton, but small numbers were reported from eight other counts across the state.

Mallards (47,040) had their lowest count in eight years. American Black Ducks (31) were scattered across fourteen counts. Wood Ducks (22) were average. All the dabblers were in low numbers. Divers were also greatly reduced. Canvasbacks (953) were typically on the Mississippi with the majority at Keokuk. Greater Scaup (86) were nearly all at Keokuk. Common Goldeneyes (7,686) were found in only

fair numbers. Ruddy Ducks (15) had their lowest count in more than ten years. Only Common Mergansers (14,093) and Red-breasted Mergansers (36) were in relatively good numbers. A single Long-tailed Duck was at Keokuk and a count week bird was at Iowa City. No scoters were reported.

Pied-billed Grebes (4) were on just three counts and Double-crested Cormorants (8) were on just four. American White Pelicans (302) were nearly all at Keokuk and Red Rock. Great Blue Herons (86) neared a ten-year low. Sandhill Cranes (8), American Coots (197), and Killdeer (6) all had low counts. Wilson's Snipes (14) were closer to their average. Ring-billed Gulls (2,721) were in very low numbers and Herring Gulls (1,330) were reduced. A lone Thayer's Gulls was at Keokuk and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Princeton and Des Moines. Belted Kingfishers (102) were below average.

Northern Bobwhite (45) and Gray Partridge (18) were hard to find. Ring-necked Pheasants (843) were down. Wild Turkeys (2,840) were in above average numbers. Rock Pigeons (9,547) approached a ten-year low. Eurasian Collared-Dove (729) and Mourning Dove (4,325) counts were nearly average.

Bald Eagles (3,922) returned to average numbers and were on every count. Northern Harriers (169) set a record high. An amazing 28 harriers were at Burlington. Cooper's Hawks (112) and Sharp-shinned Hawks (92) were also in good numbers. Northern Goshawks were at Westfield and Mason City. Red-shouldered Hawks (20) held steady following last year's record of twenty-one. This year they were on eleven counts. Rough-legged Hawks (282) approached record numbers. Golden Eagles (10) were on six counts with five at SE Clayton County. American Kestrels (460) and Merlins (22) slipped somewhat. Peregrine Falcons (5) were on four counts.

Eastern Screech-Owls (147) rebounded to near record numbers. Great Horned Owls (211) and Barred Owls (218) were in typical numbers. Long-eared Owls (22) were nowhere plentiful. Short-eared Owls (18) were scattered across fourteen counts. Northern Saw-whet Owls (21) set a new high. No Snowy Owls were reported.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (152) hit a ten-year low. Red-bellied (2,196), Downy (2,688), and Hairy woodpeckers (843), and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (35) fell below their averages. Northern Flickers (453) fell to nearly half their average. Pileated Woodpeckers (142) had a good count, with Western Mercer County reporting eighteen.

Northern Shrikes (33) were in below average numbers, but Westfield had seven. No Loggerhead Shrikes were reported. Blue Jays (4,421) were down slightly, while American Crows (52,137) were typically abundant.

Black-capped Chickadees (5,316), Tufted Titmice (697), and White-breasted Nuthatches (2,747) were all down. Red-breasted Nuthatches (58) improved from the last two years, but they remained about a third of their average. Brown Creepers (361) were counted in good numbers. Carolina Wrens (161) moved back above their average. Winter Wrens (72) were in record numbers, twice their average. Golden-crowned Kinglets (105) had a very good count. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (3) were on three Mississippi River counts.

Table 1. Site Data for 2016-2017 Christmas Bird Count Data

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	20-Dec	51	2,912	8	4	21.5	264
2. SE Clayton County	4-Jan	63	4,452	7	4	30.8	344
3. Dubuque	17-Dec	49	4,803	14	7	38.3	268.5
4. Green Island	16-Dec	77	7,224	18	5	37	336.1
5. Clinton	14-Dec	78	11,961	14	5	43.5	314
6. Princeton	20-Dec	89	10,182	14	5	41.3	312
7. Davenport	18-Dec	81	23,098	15	7	60.3	428
8. Andalusia	24-Dec	82	42,959	10	4	32.5	309
9. Muscatine	23-Dec	75	14,292	15	5	37.5	333
10. West Mercer County	22-Dec	83	30,504	12	5	42	311
11. Burlington	17-Dec	83	8,513	14	7	54	290
12. Keokuk	19-Dec	99	43,570	11	6	47	303.4
MISSOURI RIVER							
13. Westfield	15-Dec	51	5,221	16	9	46.5	343
14. Sioux City	19-Dec	47	7,426	17	6	34.5	363
15. De Soto NWR	30-Dec	73	25,359	28	12	62.7	428.6
16. Omaha	28-Dec	73	14,123	34	9	67	371.2
NORTHERN THIRD							
17. NW Clayton County	3-Jan	55	5138	6	3	29	231
18. Decorah	23-Dec	42	3,484	18	6	21.5	136
19. Bremer County	17-Dec	47	2,693	7	5	29	291
20. Worth County	1-Jan	43	2,104	6	3	27	241
21. Mason City	28-Dec	48	12,106	13	8	58	449
22. Union Slough NWR	4-Jan	30	2,309	12	8	43.3	483
23. Spirit Lake	21-Dec	60	11,050	10	3	21	231
24. Humboldt County	1-Jan	29	1,099	2	1	12	174
25. Cherokee	22-Dec	33	2,449	7	3	18	258
26. Canton	31-Dec	45	2,703	8	4	33	501
MIDDLE THIRD							
27. Lost Nation	15-Dec	67	10,870	13	5	39.5	365
28. North Linn	28-Dec	37	3,071	4	3	17.5	210
29. Cedar Rapids	17-Dec	66	9,296	15	9	52.5	358
30. Iowa City	1-Jan	59	11,009	27	10	56.5	427
31. Amana	26-Dec	39	1,332	9	3	20	30
32. Buchanan County	20-Dec	46	3,036	6	3	17	209
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	18-Dec	61	15,085	10	6	40	437
34. Eldora-Union	22-Dec	42	1,395	10	3	21	169.3
35. Grinnell	31-Dec	31	2,063	10	4	16	90
36. Ames	17-Dec	76	25,387	36	16	104	413.8
37. Saylorville Reservoir	18-Dec	84	15,952	23	11	75.5	655
38. Des Moines	23-Dec	76	17,826	16	11	43	220
39. Neal Smith NWR	31-Dec	50	6,120	37	6	28.9	243.2
40. Boone County	31-Dec	59	7,217	25	12	75.3	496.3
41. Jamaica	15-Dec	55	13,748	10	6	25	207
42. Dallas County	17-Dec	34	1,693	9	3	17	144
43. Carroll County	20-Dec	53	3,676	5	2	17.5	191
44. Sac County	2-Jan	34	871	5	4	23	160
45. Ida County	18-Dec	38	1,807	7	4	24	12.5
SOUTHERN THIRD							
46. Red Rock Reservoir	17-Dec	63	14,801	8	6	36.6	328
47. Rathbun Reservoir	16-Dec	71	14,390	10	4	42	345
48. Lamoni	26-Dec	68	6,951	6	2	20	239
49. NE Madison County	22-Dec	59	8,913	14	4	24.5	236.5
50. Taylor County	31-Dec	43	2,778	4	1	9	50
51. Shenandoah	17-Dec	60	6,317	4	3	18	162
TOTALS		139	507,338				

Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pt	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
8	2	11	0	0	22	28	10	SW 10-20
1	3.3	25	1	5		10	2	W 10-25
13.1	0	0	2	1	4	14	5	unk. 5-10
7.3	3	23	0	0	14	19	6	SE 7-12
1	4.3	37	1	0.5	10	17	4	WNW 10-30
3	4	39	1	1.3	18	29	3	SW 10-25
8.5	8.8	61	10	13.3	-9	0	4	NW 5-20
5.3	5.8	45	2	1.8	32	36	1	ESE 0-5
6	8.5	61	10	9.8	32	37	1	SSE 5-15
13.3	8.8	78	0	0	28	35	1	W 5-15
44	2	10	2	16	15	21	1	NW 10-25
13	2.5	16	0	0	-4	19	n/a	SSW 9
27	0	0	2	8	2	13	3	SE 7-12
8	3	2.8	3	4	-2	31	2	S 5-23
19.5	1.5	19	1	1.5	22	46	0	SE 5-20
32.4	1.3	17	2	3	30	48	0	S 9-20
5.3	5.8	39	0	0	11	35	2	W 10-20
9	1	0	5	10	28	30	10	SE 5-15
7	0	0	0	0	7	13	6	NW 5-10
9.8	0	0	0	0	16	27	6	S 0-8
16.8	0.8	n/a	7	8.5	30	36	6	W 15
5.5	0.5	7	1	3	-3	6	0.5	SSE 15-21
3	0	0	2	8	31	34	5	SW 10-25
0.3	2	24.5	0	0	11	33	0	W 1-5
0	0	0	0	0	18	40	0	WSW 6-17
4.3	6	40	1	1	19	34	2.5	W 5-24
7.3	2	3	0	0	-3	7	4	W 8-17
0	1	20	0	0	35	40	0	NW 10-15
3.3	2.7	17	6	21	15	25	3	unk.2
28	3.4	25	7	15	17	37	0	S 0-12
7	4	20	0	0	35	40	0	W 15-30
1.5	2	16	0	0	15	32	5	SW 5-15
6	0	0	2	3	-16	-5	6	NW 5-10
6.8	0.6	10	1	8	24	43	0.5	SSW 5-10
6	2	6	2	10	28	34	0	NW 8-22
39.5	1.5	12	6	15	-6	14	3	NW 8-34
20	6.5	n/a	1	1	-16	5	1	SW 6-21
18.5	3.5	11	7	15	34	38	0	W 5-15
8	0	0	1	3	28	34	0	NW 9-15
29	6.8	56.5	13	51.5	27	32	0	NW 7-23
6	2.5	12	1	1.5		13	0	N 5
8	0	0	1	6	3	12	1	NW 3-25
5.5	2	39	2	5	23	41	n/a	WSW 20
10	0	0	0	0	31	33	0.5	E 9-10
8	0.5	0	2	2	-24	6	2	NW 0-10
8.5	1.7	13.3	1	0.5	6	15	1	S 6-15
3.5	3.5	28	3	4	18	24	0	var. 10-16
12	0	0	0	0	33	38	0	SW 20-28
6.5	0.5	2	1	4	23	47	0	NW 17-23
2.4	0	0	0	0	20	31	0	NW 10-20
2	1	n/a	5	8	29	36	0	calm

Eastern Bluebirds (1,129) were in good numbers. Hermit Thrushes (124) had an unbelievable count, setting a record count twice their previous high, including over one hundred on Mississippi River counts. American Robins (3,367) had a reduced count, but it is typical for their numbers to fluctuate widely. Northern Mockingbirds (4) were on three counts, with two at Green Island. Gray Catbirds were at Saylorville and Omaha. Brown Thrashers were at Princeton and Western Mercer County. Cedar Waxwings (1,794) had their lowest count in fifteen. Yellow-rumped Warblers (37) were scarce. European Starlings (72,787) were in exceptional numbers and Andalusia suffered the high count.

As a group, the sparrows probably had the best count of any, and three received mention with the uncommon species. Single Spotted Towhees were at DeSoto NWR and Omaha. Five Eastern Towhees were reported, including one at Westfield. American Tree (14,603), Fox (53), and Song sparrows (695) were all in above average numbers. Twenty Savannah Sparrows was an exceptional number. Swamp Sparrows (251) set a new record with an amazing 117 birds at Lost Nation. White-throated Sparrows (1,329) also set a new high nearly twice their previous. White-crowned Sparrows (202) were twice their average. Surprisingly Harris's Sparrows (214) were down somewhat. Six Lincoln's and three Field sparrows were reported. Dark-eyed Juncos (29,089) were also exceptional.

Horned Larks (4,617) were found in typical numbers. Lapland Longspurs (2,532) were in good numbers while Snow Buntings (760) were found in lesser numbers. Red-winged Blackbirds (9,491) were widespread, but not abundant by recent standards. Meadowlarks (1,279) were reported in record numbers. Rusty Blackbirds (35) were at a twelve-year low. Brewer's Blackbirds (3) were on three counts. Common Grackles (1,972) fell slightly below their averages this season. Brown-headed Cowbirds (1,287) were typical.

Northern Cardinals (6,962) held average, but Purple Finches (503) and House Finches (2,218) both fell below their averages. Redpoll and siskin numbers fluctuate pretty wildly, but this was not a good year. Common Redpolls (10) were all at Davenport. Pine Siskin (25) numbers were abysmal. Likewise, American Goldfinch (3,754) numbers were at a seventeen-year low. House Sparrow (22,578) numbers were average. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (2,377) were reported in high numbers. They were reported north to SE Clayton County and west to Amana and Buchanan County in the middle third.

NOTABLE MISSES

As always, there were some troubling misses. Loggerhead Shrike was missed for the second straight year. It had been reported on the previous thirty counts. This was the fifth straight miss for Ruffed Grouse. Other notable misses included Glaucous Gull (8 of last 10), White-winged Scoter, Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill (7 of last 10), Mute Swan, Blue-winged Teal (6 of last 10), Surf Scoter (5 of last 10), Snowy Owl, and Marsh Wren (4 of last 10).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

As always, there were some truly tremendous birds reported. Leading the way was the Slaty-backed Gull on the Des Moines count. Normally wintering in the Sea of Japan, this bird has been found only a handful of times in Iowa. The last time was on the Omaha count in 2006–2007. Enjoying its second-ever appearance on the Iowa CBC was a Great Egret found on the Burlington count. The first was in 2004–2005 on the Saylorville count. Nearly as special was the Osprey on the Clinton count, although one was found on the Omaha count just last year.

Three Turkey Vultures at Keokuk were also nice. Although rare, they have appeared on the CBC five of the last ten years. And if egrets, Osprey, and vultures aren't suggestive enough of climate change, six counts submitted a record eight Chipping Sparrows as further evidence. Three of those were at Cedar Rapids.

Rathbun reported a Common Loon. Prairie Falcons were at DeSoto NWR and Shenandoah, same as last year. Two Mountain Bluebirds were at Clinton. The nearby Green Island count had found a Mountain Bluebird just four years before. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Mason City. An American Pipit and two Vesper Sparrows were at Princeton. A count week Le Conte's Sparrow was at Lamoni, where the species is becoming regular. Omaha reported seventeen Great-tailed Grackles, a species that hadn't been reported on the CBC since 2007–2008. Eight Red Crossbills were at Andalusia. Lastly, Westfield got its Black-billed Magpie. A magpie was first reported at Westfield on the 2000–2001 count and they've only missed the species four times since.

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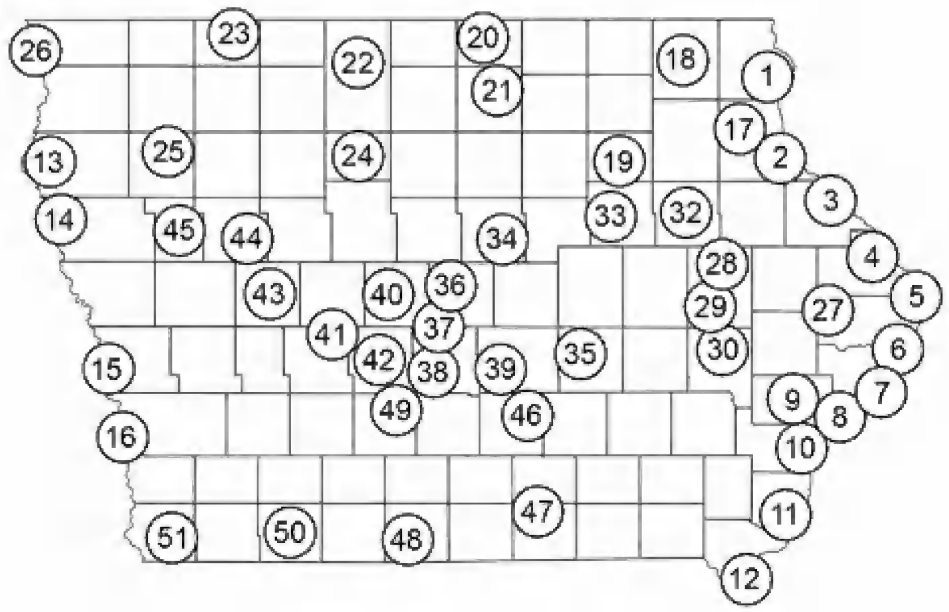


Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2016-2017

Location	Gr W-f Go	Sn Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh	No Pi
MISSISSIPPI RIVER													
1. Yellow River Forest				1						2	388		
2. SE Clayton County				8	2	3			3		2		
3. Dubuque				705	1					1	249		
4. Green Island			2	21	26	8					36		
5. Clinton				1889	71	161			3		348		1
6. Princeton			2	2585	137	2	2	2		5	232		
7. Davenport			18	2839	19		4			1	681		2
8. Andalusia		1	5	7568	2		2	4			1541		2
9. Muscatine		150	37	5126			1			1	775		1
10. West Mercer County	50		5	5812	12		3	28		5	19138	10	17
11. Burlington		3	12	2712	38		2	102	3		263	34	
12. Keokuk	1		42	6604	169	3	3	67		3	786	2	4
Subtotals	51	154	123	35870	477	177	17	203	9	18	24439	46	27
MISSOURI RIVER													
13. Westfield		19	3	542				1	2		2002		3
14. Sioux City		15	14	3897				2			250		
15. De Soto NWR	8	43	117	10336	135			10	2		6347		
16. Omaha	1	7	97	5499	37	1			1		1128		
Subtotals	9	84	231	20274	172	1	0	13	5	0	9727	0	3
NORTHERN THIRD													
17. NW Clayton County								1		2	4		
18. Decorah				510							12		
19. Bremer County	3			189	1						4		
20. Worth County	4		3	655							12		
21. Mason City			2	3322	41	2					771		
22. Union Slough NWR				4							141		
23. Spirit Lake	1	6	10	5511	2		1	3	1	1	1888		
24. Humboldt County				397							92		
25. Cherokee				15									
26. Canton													
Subtotals	8	6	15	10603	44	2	1	4	1	3	2924	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD													
27. Lost Nation	2	5		235			1				1	1	
28. North Linn				1096							5		
29. Cedar Rapids				2457						1	442		1
30. Iowa City	cw		5	4498							163		
31. Amana				300	56						200		
32. Buchanan County				175	1						33		
33.Cedar Falls-Waterloo			10	4217	39					1	114		
34. Eldora-Union				140	7								
35. Grinnell				1550	5						75		
36. Ames	7		39	6801	3		cw	7	cw		672	1	
37. Saylorville Reservoir		1	16	6264	126			35		2	1467		
38. Des Moines	3	2	121	11081	232	1		1	1	3	1563		
39. Neal Smith NWR				2025							60		
40. Boone County			6	732	13		3				32		
41. Jamaica	1	4	45	10778	3			6	4		1250		
42. Dallas County				500	9								
43. Carroll County		2	20	2500							20		
44. Sac County				25							4		
45. Ida County				270							3		
Subtotals	13	14	262	55644	494	1	4	49	5	7	6104	2	1
SOUTHERN THIRD													
46. Red Rock Reservoir			4	6207	50			10	1	3	1113		
47. Rathbun Reservoir			29	2070	6			4	1		1490		
48. Lamoni		16	45	2455	11			4			260		1
49. NE Madison County			2	5296	4	2					157		
50. Taylor County		3		2000	9						66		
51. Shenandoah	27	45	256	3200	31				cw		760	2	cw
Subtotals	27	64	336	21228	111	2	0	18	2	3	3846	2	1
TOTALS	108	322	967	143619	1298	183	22	287	22	31	47040	50	32

Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo
	1				8		12		5			3	109	
							37		1			4	83	
			2				21		20		1	6	180	
	6	8					33		1			1	91	
	44		5		27		107		45			4	65	
	69	7	20		14		325		159	16		16	28	2
	25	5			5		530	2	349	8		3	66	
1	1		2		4	1	2940	5	1605	2		3	28	
	3	8	24		18		661	2	260	6	4	2	29	
1	8						176		189			1	23	12
2	20	2	6		2		35	2	419		2	19	13	
1	764	5	252	86	62	2	1829	8	99	2	2	2	21	8
5	941	35	311	86	140	3	6706	19	3152	34	9	64	736	22
							5		12			14	87	19
						1	24		1			7	270	
2			76			2	202		19			4	238	
			6				33	6	91				73	
2	0	0	82	0	0	3	264	6	123	0	0	25	668	19
												4	127	
												40	86	
												19	8	
			1					1				44	166	
							1					27	218	
												61	19	
	3	3	6		4		11	3	3		1	33	34	
												1	4	
												43	3	
												14	10	
0	3	3	7	0	4	0	12	4	3	0	1	286	675	0
												109	15	
												2	14	
					3	1	18	1				10	130	
		cw	1	cw			1					1	5	
									3					
							1					8	114	
			1		5		13	9	7			66	34	
												12	10	
												1	11	
1		3	2	1		1	9	cw	13	1	1	84	22	
4			2		1		47	3	676	1		27	94	
	4	12	39	3	7		101	4	54		4	4	36	
									40			14	5	
									7			67	27	
1	2	1			2		5					11	4	
												1		
							1					17	2	
												6	5	
												9	15	
6	6	16	45	4	18	2	196	17	800	2	5	449	543	0
1							440	1	3423			1	42	
7	1		1		3	6	37	53	6533			4	35	
			2		2		16	3	17				5	4
		3							6			9	136	
	2				3		4	1	36			4		
		1	21				11		cw			1		
8	3	4	24	0	8	6	508	58	10015	0	0	19	218	4
21	953	58	469	90	170	14	7686	104	14093	36	15	843	2840	45

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2016-2017

Location	Am Wh Pe	D-c Co	Gr Bl He	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Go Ea	Am Co
MISSISSIPPI RIVER													
1. Yellow River Forest				43	1	2	2			17	2	1	
2. SE Clayton County			1	67		3	1			32	10	5	
3. Dubuque			2	36	2	3	3			29	3		
4. Green Island			2	72	2	2	3			60	10		
5. Clinton			9	390	8	1	5		2	58	7		
6. Princeton			4	97	1	3	4			41	13	1	
7. Davenport	1		15	642	2	2	6		2	62	5		1
8. Andalusia			3	224	1	5	4	1	1	59	16		
9. Muscatine				159	2	1	7		2	60	3		
10. West Mercer County			11	94	6	1				53	6		
11. Burlington	2		11	211	28	4	4			19	5		6
12. Keokuk	118		2	401	8	3	1		1	49	4		2
Subtotals	121	0	60	2436	61	30	40	1	8	539	84	7	9
MISSOURI RIVER													
13. Westfield				17	1					38	16		12
14. Sioux City				14		3	1			31	6		
15. De Soto NWR			1	73	9	8	4			90	3		
16. Omaha			2	44	9	3	5			115			
Subtotals	0	0	3	148	19	14	10	0	0	274	25	0	12
NORTHERN THIRD													
17. NW Clayton County				148		1	2			38	6	1	
18. Decorah			1	24		1	2		1	9			
19. Bremer County				22		1	1		1	8	1		
20. Worth County			1	8		1				19	5		
21. Mason City			1	23	1	3	6			20	5		
22. Union Slough NWR				10	1					15	1		
23. Spirit Lake				7	1		2			13	4		37
24. Humboldt County				7						4	4		
25. Cherokee				25		2				44	10		
26. Canton				28	1	1				23	11	1	
Subtotals	0	0	3	302	4	10	13	0	2	193	47	2	37
MIDDLE THIRD													
27. Lost Nation			3	68	9	1	1			53	10		
28. North Linn			1	37		1	1			19	9		
29. Cedar Rapids			3	54	3	3	5			44	10		
30. Iowa City				75	4	4	3	1	1	87	10		
31. Amana				21	2			4		19	5		
32. Buchanan County				28						17	3		
33.Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1		45		2	3		5	50	2		
34. Eldora-Union				20				2		25	13		
35. Grinnell				12		2				5			
36. Ames				43	7	2	11			46	14		12
37. Saylorville Reservoir			1	67	15	5	4		1	74	7		1
38. Des Moines	11	2		55		2	2			32			43
39. Neal Smith NWR				64	5		4	1		44	2		
40. Boone County				43	5	4	3	1		70	5		
41. Jamaica			2	21	1	3	2	1		29	2		31
42. Dallas County				17	3	1				8	1		
43. Carroll County			1	13	1	2	1			9	3		
44. Sac County				8						13	1		
45. Ida County				5		1	2			8	5		
Subtotals	11	3	11	696	55	33	42	10	7	652	102	0	87
SOUTHERN THIRD													
46. Red Rock Reservoir	170	1		180	7		2			20	1		
47. Rathbun Reservoir		4	4	74	5	1				23	1		5
48. Lamoni				40	12	2			3	69	10		2
49. NE Madison County			2	21	3	1	4			58	7		
50. Taylor County				21	3	1				16	2	1	
51. Shenandoah			3	4	cw		1			19	3		45
Subtotals	170	5	9	340	30	5	7	0	3	205	24	1	52
TOTALS	302	8	86	3922	169	92	112	11	20	1863	282	10	197

Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo
				91	10	78	2		1				2	
	1			48		39	9	11	7				6	1
				306		76			1	1			2	
				76		187	13	4	7	2	1	1	4	20
2		4	6	121	3	152	14	2	1			1	1	
		3	2	497	11	173	5	2	5				4	5
		157	851	661		153	3	6	13	1			2	7
		150	195	682	21	538	10	19	32		2		9	27
	1	31	18	69		317	6	13	16				5	8
	3			87	6	227	6	14	9		1	2	5	6
2	4	46		185		311	1	cw	4				4	2
	1	491	28	259	9	183	8	6	1	3	2	1	3	1
4	10	882	1100	3082	60	2434	77	77	97	7	6	5	47	77
				34			2	1					1	
				477	54	5	3	1						
				107	2	12	2	3	7			1	3	
		9		413	18	341		3	7				6	2
0	0	9	0	1031	74	358	7	8	14	0	0	1	10	2
1				86	2	74	9	9	19	2		3	2	
				141		3		1	1				1	
				62	19	29		2	1	1				2
				143		34		4					1	
		cw		391		53	1	5	2				1	1
				74	5	2		4	1					
				88	6	2		1					1	
				61	9			5	2		1			
				388	3	21							1	1
				461	109		6	7	5	3		5	1	
1	0	0	0	1895	153	218	16	38	31	6	1	8	8	4
	1			77	25	186	9	5	6		2		1	10
				116	12	48		1					1	
1				384	3	155	1	9	4				5	1
		80	10	305	33	142	3	10	6				3	5
		10		120	3	3	1		1				1	
				108	26	96	2	3	3	1		1		
				381	2	49		2	4			2	2	
				47	32	3		1	1				3	1
				18	2	21		7	8					
	1		1	303	19	40		4	6	3	1		2	
		22	4	496	103	61	4	22	11		1	3	3	1
		26	38	420	6	187	1	4	5		1	1	5	
		38	46	82	14	4	6	2	1		1		1	
	1			159	18	34	6	1	2	1	1		3	
				80	7	99	2	3	3				3	5
				11		18					cw			
				5	22	6	3		1	2	1		cw	
				28		34	1	1	2		1		1	
				20	45	4				1		cw		
1	3	176	99	3160	372	1190	39	75	64	8	9	7	34	23
		344	1	47	7	19	2	2	4					
		1307	130	53	6	6	3	4	3	1			1	1
		3		129	2	53	2	4	1		2			35
				115	23	43	1	1	3				1	8
				14	8			1						2
	1			21	24	4		1	1				1	
0	1	1654	131	379	70	125	8	13	12	1	2	0	3	46
6	14	2721	1330	9547	729	4325	147	211	218	22	18	21	102	152

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2016-2017

Location	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest	28		22	8		6	10			1	46	83
2. SE Clayton County	54	1	64	20	8	5	5	1			96	193
3. Dubuque	48		31	15	3	3	7	1			53	146
4. Green Island	109	4	69	36	23	11	15	1	1	3	260	254
5. Clinton	54	3	71	11	15	2	7	1			146	294
6. Princeton	61	4	78	13	20	1	21				128	32
7. Davenport	98	1	131	33	23	7	5	1	2		170	107
8. Andalusia	98	7	107	44	33	11	40				191	198
9. Muscatine	70		75	34	11	6	29		1		125	138
10. West Mercer County	83	1	78	27	18	18	25	1			163	127
11. Burlington	47	3	34	15	21	9	14	1	cw		63	79
12. Keokuk	83	3	78	19	23	1	9		1		218	23137
Subtotals	833	27	838	275	198	80	187	7	5	4	1659	24788
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield	26		40	8	30		2			7	64	78
14. Sioux City	22		31	7	10		2				38	52
15. De Soto NWR	51	1	58	16	15	2	10	1		4	57	120
16. Omaha	111		87	25	33	6	21	3		1	87	98
Subtotals	210	1	216	56	88	8	35	4	0	12	246	348
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County	60	1	71	35	2	15	10			1	100	278
18. Decorah	30		41	15		2	4				85	247
19. Bremer County	12		36	6		1	3			2	98	349
20. Worth County	8		15	7	1			1		2	47	120
21. Mason City	24		53	21	cw	cw	1				96	5393
22. Union Slough NWR	4		8	4			1				17	322
23. Spirit Lake	6		14	3			1			2	13	64
24. Humboldt County	11		10	2	1		3	1			8	25
25. Cherokee	14		12	4			7				47	200
26. Canton	16		23	7	12		2	2		1	116	39
Subtotals	185	1	283	104	16	18	32	4	0	8	627	7037
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation	70		47	29	9	5	12				178	219
28. North Linn	24		13	2	1	2	17				31	49
29. Cedar Rapids	80		144	33	9	4	17				86	1095
30. Iowa City	64		74	18	8	2	31			1	80	241
31. Amana	18		15	2	1		6				30	25
32. Buchanan County	59		45	25	1	1	4				96	242
33.Cedar Falls-Waterloo	25		60	17		3	5			1	84	7360
34. Eldora-Union	21		24	3	2	1	4				27	56
35. Grinnell	5		7	2			3				8	104
36. Ames	67	1	187	59	12		6				95	8800
37. Saylorville Reservoir	78		127	33	16	1	8	1		3	134	212
38. Des Moines	97		118	29	11	1	7	3			138	199
39. Neal Smith NWR	25		40	10	1	1	4	1			64	102
40. Boone County	117		188	90	13	9	12			2	60	257
41. Jamaica	37		48	10	9						91	53
42. Dallas County	19		23	3			1				28	52
43. Carroll County	11	1	10	11	1		4	1			29	32
44. Sac County	7		14	3	1		2				5	39
45. Ida County	6		10	2	2						52	33
Subtotals	830	2	1194	381	97	30	143	6	0	7	1316	19170
SOUTHERN THIRD												
46. Red Rock Reservoir	28	1	50	8	8		2			1	52	70
47. Rathbun Reservoir	25	1	16	4	6	3	11				130	133
48. Lamoni	30		22	5	19	cw	35				230	365
49. NE Madison County	40	2	50	8	11	3	8				104	108
50. Taylor County	3		6		5		6				17	115
51. Shenandoah	12		13	2	5		1	1		1	40	3
Subtotals	138	4	157	27	54	6	63	1	0	2	573	794
TOTALS	2196	35	2688	843	453	142	460	22	5	33	4421	52137

Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	La Lo
140	65	16		33				2	12		2	132	6	
72	164	43		90	12			2	27	7	6	443	27	74
75	133	16	2	48					3		12	877		
84	128	29		102	20	3	9	12	112	18	227	1466	68	3
255	134	29	2	87	10	1	2	10	12	8	222	2012	23	27
125	107	26	2	46	13	2	3	4	6	5	115	1469	5	22
24	321	41	2	143	23	13	4		26	5	105	4634	3	25
6	172	42	1	144	41	13	7	3	51	17	68	22416	43	10
8	174	61	2	110	19	23	6	3	31	14	20	3118	2	
36	141	45	1	122	19	12	5	10	38	21	70	701	32	118
274	59	23	1	29	5	8	3	5	33	5	40	852	12	77
150	240	57	3	64	3	29		9	21	8	135	4453	102	10
1249	1838	428	16	1018	165	104	39	60	372	108	1022	42573	323	366
12	66		1	45	7				44		89	933	14	
311	49		1	32							1	697	9	2
6	178	7	1	55	2	1	2	4	98		33	1754	159	
1	169	19	1	161	7	30	5	7	61	1	77	1891	16	
330	462	26	4	293	16	31	7	11	203	1	200	5275	198	2
85	152	16		90	17		1	3	18	2		1429		4
54	93	9		27	2		2				4	615	2	
90	61			28							3	74		191
3	18			15							4	148	6	
2	125		7	49	1						3	430	7	
216	15			5							3	643	14	103
74	21		1	18							1	1942	13	85
	31			7								256		
8	38			18	2				5			869		
57	41			24	3						8	721	15	74
589	595	25	8	281	25	0	3	3	23	2	26	7127	57	457
212	71	21	1	47	18	1	1	5	6	1	22	805	9	
2	36	1		2	1				2		30	598		
63	286	43	2	82	12	1	2	2	43	1	2	829	28	
	173	30	2	73	6	2			57	2	9	3324	80	
12	22		1	16								200	10	
29	97			87	5				5		6	351	1	
44	140	1	1	52	1				1		21	264	116	15
	21			25	1			1				476	10	
	9			14								50		
877	333		6	117	29	11	5	2	17	1	64	1781	43	1505
37	290	10	1	79	21	2	1	1	83	4	791	708	87	75
	250	19		116	8	4	3	3	13	1	43	642	41	
	57	2	1	34		cw		2	14		195	1066	15	
	339	39	cw	178	10		5	6	34		139	1658	51	
	56	8		60	5				7		110	182	12	
508	8	1		6	4			1	19		24	261	37	8
cw	3		2	12	1						5	302	56	
2	38			21	cw				2			329		
264	2		4	4					3		35	32		12
2050	2231	175	21	1025	122	21	17	23	306	10	1496	13858	596	1615
303	64	22		31	7	2	1	6	19	3	440	845	47	74
60	26	5	6	21	2				22		35	275	177	16
23	26	11		31	20	1	1	2	90		98	1071	335	2
	57	5	1	34	1	1	1		75		26	1316	61	
	10		2	1	3		1		19			127		
13	7			12		1	2				24	320		
399	190	43	9	130	33	5	6	8	225	3	623	3954	620	92
4617	5316	697	58	2747	361	161	72	105	1129	124	3367	72787	1794	2532

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2016-2017

Location	Sn Bu	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Ch Sp	Sa Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest			196				2		2		1	798
2. SE Clayton County	8		428		1	1	13	1	9		21	1030
3. Dubuque			36			4	5		11		2	960
4. Green Island		7	1098		3	3	21	8	54		8	1594
5. Clinton		5	677			1	14	7	46		6	3086
6. Princeton	58	4	934	1	4	1	25	8	17		1	950
7. Davenport	6		429	1		14	123	27	98		15	1310
8. Andalusia	2	2	262				45	25	131		11	429
9. Muscatine	1	3	359				32	1	16		30	554
10. West Mercer County	3	2	459			2	24	6	18			474
11. Burlington			378	1	1	1	21	1	53		3	509
12. Keokuk		5	178	1	2	4	51	11	195		29	734
Subtotals	78	28	5434	4	11	31	376	95	650	0	127	12428
MISSOURI RIVER												
13. Westfield			183								1	279
14. Sioux City	121		110				3			10	5	403
15. De Soto NWR			722				30		13	32	19	947
16. Omaha		1	390			4	55	2	22	81	7	740
Subtotals	121	1	1405	0	0	4	88	2	35	123	32	2369
NORTHERN THIRD												
17. NW Clayton County	12	1	199				4		4		4	1186
18. Decorah			85			4	2		3		1	585
19. Bremer County	85		16					2				233
20. Worth County			38				2			1		111
21. Mason City	38		53						2			296
22. Union Slough NWR	166		97									18
23. Spirit Lake	215		323			1				2		103
24. Humboldt County			44									11
25. Cherokee			36				1					199
26. Canton			68									146
Subtotals	516	1	959	0	0	5	9	2	9	3	5	2888
MIDDLE THIRD												
27. Lost Nation	20	1	2100			6	61	117	67		1	2828
28. North Linn			88				1					74
29. Cedar Rapids		1	180	3		2	14	1	108		2	860
30. Iowa City		1	159				7	1	34		4	264
31. Amana			60				9		8		2	30
32. Buchanan County			65				2			1		590
33.Cedar Falls-Waterloo	5		183			1	1		3			730
34. Eldora-Union			37				2			1		66
35. Grinnell			5						5	1		55
36. Ames	16		306			1	10		52	2	cw	870
37. Saylorville Reservoir			1206	1		2	39	29	141	7		861
38. Des Moines			129		1		20		41			380
39. Neal Smith NWR			133				5					219
40. Boone County			248			1	5		15	8		833
41. Jamaica			55				2		17			351
42. Dallas County			17						9			
43. Carroll County		1	74				3		4	12	3	156
44. Sac County			80									148
45. Ida County	3		279									515
Subtotals	44	4	5404	4	1	13	181	148	504	32	12	9830
SOUTHERN THIRD												
46. Red Rock Reservoir	1		91				5	1	39	1		254
47. Rathbun Reservoir			268				3	1	7	1		352
48. Lamoni			172		8		27	2	80	12	11	309
49. NE Madison County		3	111				5		4	14	8	218
50. Taylor County			70				1			3	7	137
51. Shenandoah			689						1	25		304
Subtotals	1	3	1401	0	8	0	41	4	131	56	26	1574
TOTALS	760	37	14603	8	20	53	695	251	1329	214	202	29089

Ea To	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	Ea Me	We Me	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
	79	1						3	2	35		63	337	
	176							1	37	88	2	119	710	9
	178								7	32		124	320	
	204	9	4			1	4	30	38	80		37	244	7
	276	183	2		6	1		21	22	35		21	529	18
	160	22			7		26	3	10	58	3	28	985	67
	438	4050				8	1029	754	21	130		106	1169	264
	247	306			8		6	2	56	210		83	1422	224
	237						1	8	11	98	3	90	503	439
	270	26	4	2	13		60	4	12	22	1	29	798	332
	203	36			1		1		12	36	3	103	250	647
	400	60				6	10	15	20	13	2	60	280	220
0	2868	4693	10	2	35	16	1137	841	248	837	14	863	7547	2227
1	36	16		54	20					70		54	207	
	55	100			17					17		44	201	
	139	2025		1	459		4	7	4	9		212	216	
	218	810		7	330	1		3	14	22		245	208	
1	448	2951	0	62	826	1	4	10	18	118	0	555	832	0
1	205								12	14		47	518	
	103								14	71		152	399	
	65	1			1	1	3		18	24		82	826	
	13	1				6		3		5	3	28	396	
	68	cw	1						3	106		95	333	
	10	53			1				2	3			266	
	4	104						1	8	7	1	5	330	
	7				1			3					91	
	12	50			22				3			35	311	
	19	51		3				1	1	66		16	485	
1	506	260	1	3	25	7	3	8	61	296	4	460	3955	0
	365	4			25		16	3	17	23	1	49	2435	106
	45											4	685	
	392	12			10			5		174	2	103	805	9
	190						5	4	10	66		66	441	24
	16									5		10	75	10
	129				2		2	3	2	31		25	509	1
	182	16			1		3		1	50	1	75	551	
	26	30			23	4	5		1			23	187	
	24				1					15		13	25	
	310	40	8	cw	9	1	3	11	9	269	3	142	1119	
1	419	17			5		4	7	12	50		287	388	
	184	522			19		123	36		39		185	280	
	63	358			11		480	133	2	39		23	544	
1	234	126			19		5	152	12	38		311	740	
	103			19					17	4		44	37	
	27				cw				3			30	35	
	37	55	1		44		2	6	7	39		40	79	
	5	2			cw		21			1		2	19	
	26	13			4		4		3	11		17	83	
2	2777	1195	9	19	173	5	673	360	96	854	7	1449	9037	150
	92	2					2			47		39	40	
	48				15		9	2	47	3		80	666	
1	29	104			46		136	20	30	cw		174	162	
	77	250		15				45	3	10		118	214	
	24			2			8					8	3	
	93	36			36	6		1		53		8	122	
1	363	392	0	17	97	6	155	68	80	113	0	427	1207	0
5	6962	9491	20	103	1156	35	1972	1287	503	2218	25	3754	22578	2377

Table 3. Species Reported on Three or Fewer Christmas Bird Counts.

Species	Counts
Ross's Goose	DeSoto NWR (4), Shenandoah (2)
Long-tailed Duck	Keokuk (1), Iowa City (cw)
duck sp.	DeSoto NWR (5)
Gray Partridge	Bremer County (8), Cedar Falls-Waterloo (5), Ames (5)
Common Loon	Rathbun (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Dubuque (1), Spirit Lake (1), Des Moines (2)
Great Egret	Burlington (1)
Turkey Vulture	Keokuk (3)
Osprey	Clinton (1)
Northern Goshawk	Westfield (1), Mason City (1)
buteo sp.	DeSoto NWR (1), Taylor County (3)
Sandhill Crane	Green Island (1), Clinton (7)
Thayer's Gull	Keokuk (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Princeton (1), Des Moines (1)
Slaty-backed Gull	Des Moines (1)
gull sp.	Green Island (1), Neal Smith NWR (3)
owl sp.	Boone County (1)
woodpecker sp.	Neal Smith NWR (2)
Prairie Falcon	DeSoto NWR (1), Shenandoah (1)
falcon sp.	Omaha (1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Princeton (1), Andalusia (1), W. Mercer County (1)
Mountain Bluebird	Clinton (2)
Townsend's Solitaire	Mason City (1)
Gray Catbird	Omaha (1), Saylorville (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Green Island (2), Rathbun (1), Lamoni (1)
Brown Thrasher	Princeton (1), W. Mercer County (1)
American Pipit	Princeton (1)
Spotted Towhee	DeSoto NWR (1), Omaha (1)
Field Sparrow	Princeton (1), W. Mercer County (1), DeSoto NWR (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Princeton (2)
Le Conte's Sparrow	Lamoni (cw)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Princeton (1), W. Mercer County (1), Omaha (4)
sparrow sp.	Neal Smith NWR (12)
Brewer's Blackbird	Keokuk (1), Westfield (1), Eldora-Union (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (17)
blackbird sp.	DeSoto NWR (6), Omaha (64), Boone County (17)
Red Crossbill	Andalusia (8)
Common Redpoll	Davenport (10)

BYLAWS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 19 May 2018

Purpose

1. To maintain on-going timely electronic communications with members of the Union.
2. To evaluate current methods/platforms and explore new ones to best reach current and prospective members.

Committee Structure

1. The committee shall consist of five to eleven members. Each member must be a current member of the Union.
2. Each member of the committee will have a specific area of responsibility. Current platforms include: MailChimp (The BoboLink), IA-BIRDS Google group, IOU Facebook page, IOU Twitter, and IOU website news items.
3. Because of the nature of the responsibilities, there shall be no term limits for any committee members. Natural turnover will be achieved over time.
4. A member may be involuntarily removed from the committee by a unanimous vote of the other members and approval by the Board of Directors.
5. The committee may make recommendations to the Board for filling vacancies when vacated.
6. The committee shall elect its own chairperson who will report to the Board of Directors.
7. Qualifications for membership on the committee should include familiarity with or willingness to learn at least one electronic media platform, enthusiasm for exploring new ways of communicating with members and other birders, and interests representative of the membership and consistent with the purposes of the Union.

Committee Procedures

1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation if they do not conflict with the constitution of the Union or the committee bylaws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in the bylaws to the Board.
3. Meetings will generally be informal and conducted by mail, electronically, or phone. The chair may call for a formal vote as necessary.
4. Formal actions of the committee require positive votes from a majority of current members.

5. The committee may enlist others to help carry out their mission.

Finances

1. The committee shall submit an annual prospective budget for activities under the purview of the committee.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond that approved by the Board or President acting for the Board.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for serving on the committee other than for approved expenses as reflected in the annual budget or as approved by the President acting for the Board of Directors.



Song Sparrow, Iowa Arboretum, Story, *14 January 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone.*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG(*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3],October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.: Spring: 3–5 May 2019, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Long-eared Owl, *Washington,* 8 January 2017. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Great Black-backed Gull, Lock & Dam 14, *Scott*, 1 January 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City.

LAYOUT: Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA
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IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Summer 2017 . Volume 87 . Number 3

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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First Record of White-tailed Kite for Iowa

Larry Reis

On 18 April 2017 at about 2:30 p.m. I was driving north on the County Line Road (345th Avenue) which divides Winneshiek and Howard counties. About one mile north of the Turkey River Bridge and access to the Cardinal Marsh boat ramp, I spotted a small raptor sitting on a branch in a dead elm on the west side of the road about 100 meters ahead. The crow-sized bird was perched about 15 feet above the ground. It was a dark and gray day so no color was apparent on the bird at that point.

Since I like to take photos of any raptor that I can see at close range, I stopped the car and readied my Canon camera and 100–400mm lens before slowly driving forward. Within 30 meters of the bird, I could clearly see it was a White-tailed Kite staring directly at me. I have seen this streamlined ghost-like bird several times in Texas so I was familiar with its pale gray back, black shoulder patch, pure white head, and bright white breast. I quickly took one photo of the sitting bird as it stared back at me with its red eye. As it flushed, I managed one more photo in flight, revealing a tail that was clearly white.

The kite soared off over a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) field to the southwest, and unfortunately, I could not follow it at the time since I was already late for a presentation. During this encounter, I observed the kite for a total of about three minutes. Following my program, I returned to Cardinal Marsh at 4:30 p.m. and searched the grassy field areas near the main marsh and contiguous pond segments without finding the bird. I also drove by several CRP fields in the area but never saw the White-tailed Kite again. This is the first accepted record of this species for Iowa.

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Figure 1. White-tailed Kite, Cardinal Marsh, Howard*, 18 April 2017. Photograph by Larry Reis, Calmar, IA.*

Second Record of White-tailed Kite for Iowa

Ann Johnson

Thirty-five days after the first accepted record for Iowa, Ari Rice photographed a White-tailed Kite at Sand Creek WMA in Decatur County on 23 May 2017. He describes the experience in his documentation:

> I was conducting bird point counts at this site for the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring program (MSIM) when a largely white raptor with pointed wings flew overhead from NE to SW at approximately 20–30 meters above me. I may or may not have seen small black "wrist-patches" on the undersides of the wings, but the primaries appeared dark from underneath, and as the bird flew further out and revealed the upper sides of its wings, they showed very extensive black shoulder patches.
>
> The bird did a small amount of gliding as it flew, but not much. Wings were proportionally long, pointed, and not buteo-like at all. Breast and belly were white. Tail was medium-length, squared-off, and completely white. Aside from the black shoulder patches, the upper wings and mantle were very light gray to off-white. Bill was small and raptor-like. Didn't see the characteristic red irises, but by the time the bird banked and showed its face, it was somewhat far away.
>
> When the bird was a little over 100 m SW of me, I still had it in my binoculars and watched it hover for several seconds in a kestrel-like fashion. This was when I pulled out my tiny point-and-shoot camera and got several distant photos of it. Unfortunately, this was the one and only time in my entire career as a field tech where I did not bring my SLR and telephoto lens with me. Still, the photos seemed to come out ok, and after another round or two of hovering, the bird continued flying SW and disappeared from view.

White-tailed Kite has long been expected in the state and there have been four single-observer, non-photographed records dating back to 1989 that were not accepted by the Records Committee. 2017 has shown, with the proliferation of cameras in the field from cell phones to bigger SLRs, that we now have the ability to get a clearer picture of the avian life of our state. History shows that even a fuzzy photo provides irrefutable evidence.

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Birding Northern Hardin County—A Day Trip

Tom Schilke

The unique landforms of Hardin County give birders and nature enthusiasts opportunities to explore different types of wildlife habitats in close proximity to one another. The Des Moines Lobe, Southern Iowa Drift Plain, and the Iowan Surface converge in Hardin County near the Iowa River. Over 60 county conservation-owned properties and Pine Lake State Park encompass nearly 5000 acres of land open to the public to bird and explore. Much of it is concentrated along the Iowa River Greenbelt from Iowa Falls to Eldora. A good day trip centers half way between Iowa Falls and Ackley in northern Hardin County.

Recent attention has been given to several newly developed wetlands in the county, so new that they aren't found on the usually reliable maps.

Pintail Wetlands was built in the fall of 2012. It is located 1.5 miles south of Highway D15 on R Avenue five miles east of Iowa Falls. What once was 79 acres of marginal row crop farmland is now a more mature marsh of 20 acres of water surrounded by 59 acres of reconstructed prairie. An amazing 154 species of birds have been spotted there thus far. A handicapped accessible viewing deck (funded in part by the I.O.U.) with an attached tower allows birders good easy looks at 90% of the property with binoculars or a scope. Concentrations of waterfowl can be impressive in the spring. Shorebirds collect around the muddy banks surrounding the islands in the spring and fall. Sparrows and other grassland birds collect near the wet edges and throughout the prairie spring through fall. Nelson's and Le Conte's sparrows are reliable finds in October. Being close to the Iowa River Valley, a migration corridor, one never knows what might just show up. Upland bird hunting is allowed.

The brand new 230+ acre Legacy Wildlife Area is on Highway D15 just a short distance from the turnoff to Pintail Wetlands. Signs and adequate parking are yet to be completed. The 100 acres of water and the surrounding newly planted prairie have already attracted over 100 bird species in just a few months. Some may recall this area as the site where Black-necked Stilts nested for the first time in recorded Iowa history back during the extra wet year of 2013. Swans and large numbers of light geese are known to populate the wetland in early spring. Expect good numbers of common shorebirds and waterfowl and some rarities in the years ahead. Upland Sandpipers and Gray Partridge are making a home here, as are good numbers of other grassland birds such as Western and Eastern meadowlarks and Grasshopper Sparrows. Both Smith's and Lapland longspurs have found the shorter wetter stubble and grass attractive. A parking lot off D15 in the southeast corner allows safe access and views with a scope. Walk down to the water's edge for better viewing. In the late afternoon, a walk in from Q Avenue on the west can give good views of the water, shorelines, and expanse of

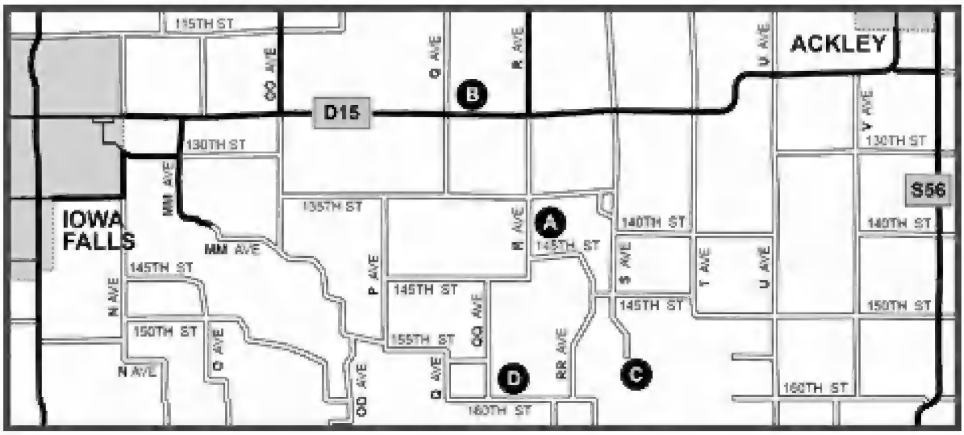


Figure 1. Map of the Hardin County sites covered in this article. Letters indicate the locations of specific birding sites (A. Pintail Welands, B. Legacy Wildlife Area, C. Hardin County Conservation Headquarters, D. Eagle City Access).

prairie in good light. Keep glancing at the open sky for hawks, falcons, eagles, gulls, and terns.

Just a few short miles to the southeast of Pintail Wetlands is the Headquarters Segment of the Iowa River Valley. The office and maintenance buildings of Hardin County Conservation are located here on the edge of nearly 300 acres of forested ridges and steep ravines along the Iowa River. Some wide, looping trails (roads) follow higher ground leading birders comfortably along the edges of rows of pine and spruce, small fields, and thick brush. Eventually the roads cut through more mature forest and loop around returning the walker back to the familiar main trail. Many of Iowa's migrating passerines, raptors, and nesting birds can be spotted along the varied habitats. During the winter, an exploration of cone-bearing alders and spruce just south of the maintenance buildings at the trailhead may yield redpolls, Purple Finches,



Figure 2. Nelson's Sparrow, Pintail Wetlands, Hardin, *22 May 2014. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA*



Figure 3. Lapland Longspurs, Pintail Wetlands, Hardin, *21 April 2014. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*

owls, sparrows, or even a crossbill. Parking lots for hunters and birders are located at the entrance and at the office. Maps, more information about the county parks, and a restroom are available inside during business hours.

A few miles west of Headquarters and south of Pintail is the 102-acre Eagle City Access. The upper portion is well known for carpets of early spring wildflowers and the birds that follow the Iowa River greenbelt. Follow the road back to a primitive camping area and good edge birding. The lower portion of Eagle City borders the Iowa River with footpaths that skirt along the river. Expect flycatchers, warblers, sapsuckers, and the like during migration, as well as the unexpected. I can still visualize the Wild Turkey flushing at my feet from along the trail – whoa!

Birders are known to stop at Eagle City Winery on the other side of the road to taste or buy wine for themselves or to take a bottle home to soothe a patient spouse when the birding goes a few hours longer than planned. Bordering the winery and river is Parlina Pierce Wildlife Area, 131 acres to explore and bushwhack with a good set of legs.

The small town of Ackley, about five miles east of the birding area, has convenience stores and a Pizza Ranch. After refueling the stomach and gas tank, a visit to the famous Ackley Bald Eagle nest is generally in order. A red brick gate marks the entrance to the cemetery located on the old Highway 20 that passes through the north edge of town. The nest towers over gravestones in a tall white pine tree on the west edge. Excellent eagle viewing from your vehicle or at an ethical distance amongst the gravestones completes a day of birding diverse habitats. A full day can be spent birding these areas that are in close proximity in northern Hardin County.

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Figure 4. American Avocets, Pintail Wetlands, Hardin, *21 April 2014. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*

Field Reports – Spring 2017

Tyler M. Harms

WEATHER



Tyler Harms

Average weather conditions prevailed throughout the spring season, which started with temperatures only 1.1°F above normal and precipitation only 0.40 inches greater than normal in March. Despite this, temperatures fluctuated greatly in early March ranging from 7°F in Cresco on 3 Mar to 80°F in Sioux City only three days later. Similarly, the coldest and warmest recorded temperatures occurred only 4 days apart this month, with −9°F recorded in various locations across northern Iowa on 15 Mar and 84°F recorded in northwest Iowa on 19 Mar. Typical of early spring, precipitation was variable and spotty. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 1.14 to 4.41 inches, and most of this was in the form of rain as the trend of below-average snowfall continued from winter into spring. The most significant precipitation event statewide occurred on 29–30 Mar with an average of 0.93 inches falling statewide.

April weather conditions were nearly identical to March in terms of totals with temperatures only 1.9°F above normal and precipitation only 0.38 inches above normal. The most significant temperature event came on 28 Apr when a hard freeze occurred across much of northern Iowa after nearly two weeks of above average temperatures. Most of the precipitation fell east of a line from Council Bluffs to Forest City with 7.85 inches recorded in Chariton, the third-highest amount recorded in April at this location in 123 years of data. West of this line, precipitation was well below normal with only 1.88 inches recorded in Estherville for the entire month.

The trend of average weather conditions continued into May. Despite unseasonably cold temperatures statewide during the first 4 days of the month, May ended with temperatures averaging 1.9°F above normal. A surprise snow fell across extreme northwest Iowa on the first day of the month with nearly 2 inches recorded at Lester. This was immediately followed by a period of dry weather through mid-May, which abruptly ended with moderate to heavy rainfall across much of Iowa from 16–20 May. Despite experiencing dry conditions through much of April, western Iowa recovered with precipitation well above average in May. In fact, 8.24 inches was recorded near

Anita while only 2.54 inches was recorded in Fort Madison, well below average for this part of the state. Overall, spring 2017 ended as the 29th warmest and 32nd wettest spring in 145 years of records.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Despite the average weather conditions, this was still a rather eventful spring with 37 species being reported within the range of record early dates. This is comparable to the 36 record early species reported last spring. Not surprisingly, 31 of the record early species were passerines. Three of the 7 vireo species (Blue-headed, Warbling, and Red-eyed) were reported early this spring as well as 3 wren species (House, Sedge, and Marsh) and 13 warbler species. Like last year, this spring was preceded by winter temperatures averaging 4–5°F above normal. One must wonder if the abnormally mild winters are causing a forward shift in the arrival of migrant passerines in spring.

Not well represented on the list of record early species were waterbirds. Only 6 species arrived early this spring, 3 of which were shorebirds (Sanderling, Dunlin, and Lesser Yellowlegs) and the remaining 3 marsh birds (Yellow Rail, Cattle Egret, and American Bittern). No waterfowl species arrived early, and the waterfowl migration overall was rather variable. Like previous years, counts of Snow Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose topped 200,000 and 20,000, respectively, along the Missouri River. Peak counts of some waterfowl species, such as Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, and Redhead were less than half what was reported last year while peak counts for other species were more than double the peak count last year such as Blue-winged Teal and Canvasback. Most shorebird reports came from eastern Iowa, likely tracking the line of heavy precipitation that fell in this area of the state in April. Most peak counts of shorebirds came from Coralville Lake *Johnson*, which was well below normal pool for most of the spring, or Cone Marsh *Louisa*. Both Saylorville and Red Rock Reservoirs were held slightly above normal pool all spring, so it's no surprise these two areas were not attractive to shorebirds.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Documentations were submitted for 11 casual or accidental species this spring. Most notable was Iowa's first record of White-tailed Kite in *Howard*, followed by a second record one month later in *Decatur*. Black-bellied Whistling Duck appeared in the spring records again this year, a species that is near earning the classification as a regular. A single male Prairie Warbler was found in *Monroe*, singing relentlessly from 7–29 May before moving on, and another male made a quick trip to Brookside P *Story* on 6 May. Single male Western Tanagers appeared at 4 different locations from 30 Apr – 7 May, a delightful spectacle enjoyed by many birders in central Iowa. Rounding out the list of casual or accidental species seen this spring include Eurasian Wigeon, Ruff, California Gull, Brown Pelican, Glossy Ibis, and Fish Crow.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **BCA** = Bird Conservation Area, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **SL** = sewage lagoons, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING DUCK: A group of 4 birds was seen on 2 May in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* (Matthew Dollison *fide* *TMH–ph).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Most migrants passed through in Mar with high counts of 20,000 on 16 Mar in *Plymouth* (GLV) and 16,800 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). First: 220 on 1 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). Last: 1 on 27 May in *Adams* (DAk).

Snow Goose: Migration peaked along the Missouri R again this year with 200,000 on 5 Mar in *Woodbury* (GLV) and 100,000 on 4 Mar at Browns L *Woodbury* (GLV). The first birds arrived on 1 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC) and the last were seen on 18 May at Blue L *Monona* (GLV).

Ross's Goose: Migration started off strong with 200 on 2 Mar at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) and peaked with 1400 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). Last: 1 on 13 May at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (LR).

Cackling Goose: Similar to last spring, only 5 reports statewide: 60 on 3 Mar at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DAk), 80 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk), 10 on 11 Mar and 4 on 12 Mar at Crystal L *Hancock* (BCC), and 60 on 17 Mar at Dan Greene Sl *Clay* (DAk).

Canada Goose: A total of 1650 was mingling with all other species of geese on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk).

Mute Swan: A single bird was seen from 17–27 Apr at the Marble Rock SL *Floyd* (MP). In addition, a pair was seen again this spring on 21 May at Littlefield County P *Audubon* (DAk), raising suspicion that they were introduced at this location.

Trumpeter Swan: Numerous scattered reports were received this spring as this species continues to increase in numbers both in winter and during the breeding season. High counts included 34 on 1 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), 27 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), and 24 on 12 Mar at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (JG).

Tundra Swan: Reported in 5 counties with a high of 11–15 seen from 1–4 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BCC, CRE).

Wood Duck: First on 4 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) with a high of 40 on 25 Mar at Brower Sl *Woodbury* (GLV).

Gadwall: Migration commenced on 2 Mar and continued through 3 May with peak counts of 1400 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk) and 1340 on 26 Mar at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk).

EURASIAN WIGEON: A single male was seen 17–18 Apr at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (*POR–ph, *DAk–ph).

American Wigeon: First: 6 on 2 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Most: 310 on 26 Mar at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk). Last: 2 on 17 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

American Black Duck: Reported in 5 counties: 2 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk), 1 on 5 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE), 4 on 11 Mar at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk), and 2 on 27 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MP). Additionally, 1–2 were seen from 23 Mar – 24 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Mallard: Migration peaked with 2700 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk).

Blue-winged Teal: First on 1 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Migration peaked with 740 on 19 Apr in *Sac* (DAk).

Cinnamon Teal: Three males appeared in Iowa this spring with the first on 17 Mar in Rutland *Humboldt* (JN). A second male was seen 25 Mar – 3 Apr at Ledges SP *Boone* (m.ob.). The third male was seen on 2 May at Forney L *Fremont* (CF, JLF).

Northern Shoveler: A peak count of 140 was seen on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk) and on 14 Mar in *Osceola* (DAk).

Northern Pintail: Migration peaked with 1170 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). Last: 5 on 27 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Green-winged Teal: This species made a strong appearance in Mar and Apr with numerous reports of more than 100 birds starting on 4 Mar and ending on 21 Apr. High counts included 600 on 5 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE) and 360 on 5 Mar at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (BE) and 21 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). The last birds were seen on Trumbull L *Clay* on 31 May (DAk).

Canvasback: An impressive count of 4410 was seen on 12 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH), and the last was seen on 11 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JLF).

Redhead: Peaks of 210 on 3 Mar at South Twin L *Calhoun* (DAk), 190 on 17 Mar at Dan Greene Sl *Clay* (DAk), and 150 on 21 Mar at Anderson L *Hamilton* (TMH). Last on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), a possible breeding location for this species.

Ring-necked Duck: First: 70 on 3 Mar at Errington M *Polk* (RLC). Most: 1010 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). Last: 2 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Greater Scaup: Single birds reported in 12 counties mostly statewide with the first on 9 Mar at Errington M *Polk* (RLC) and last on 13 May in *Black Hawk* (TSS–ph).

Lesser Scaup: Migration commenced and peaked with 1670 on 12 Mar at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). Last on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), a popular location for lingering waterfowl this spring.

Surf Scoter: A single female was seen on 20 Apr on Pool 19 of the Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD).

White-winged Scoter: Two reports both on 2 May: 1 at South Twin L *Calhoun* (Rachel Vanausdall *fide* SJD) and 1 at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF).

Black Scoter: Two reports: 1 on 1 Mar in *Black Hawk* (TGS) and 1 on 1 Apr at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Long-tailed Duck: Three reports: 1 from 16–19 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion*

(TSS–ph, JG), 1 on 6 Apr at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and 1 from 21 Apr – 6 May at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (Rachel Vanausdall *fide* SJD).

Bufflehead: Migration commenced on 4 Mar at Jensen M *Madison* (JG) and peaked with 78 on 21 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). Last on 12 May at Mullen WA *Howard* (PH).

Common Goldeneye: Only 7 reports this spring with a peak of only 30 on 17 Mar at Dan Greene Sl *Clay* (DAk) and last on 26 Mar in *O'Brien* (DAk).

Hooded Merganser: The high count was 60 on 26 Mar at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk).

Common Merganser: Continuing from winter, a high count of 1134 was reported on 2 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Last: 1 on 6 May at Hawthorn WA *Mahaska* (JF).

Red-breasted Merganser: Migration peaked with 425 on 21 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). A lingering bird was seen on 27 May at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Ruddy Duck: Most: 340 on 14 Apr in *Osceola* (DAk).



Red-breasted Merganser, Woodbury, *6 April 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Northern Bobwhite: Populations of this species continue to do well and expand northward from the traditional southern Iowa range. Northernmost reports include 1 on 25 May at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (GLV) and 5–8 on both 22 Apr and 10 May at the Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB, DTh).

Gray Partridge: Reports of 1–2 birds in 12 counties north of *Audubon.*

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reported in 9 counties north and west of *Polk* with a high of 27 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Ruffed Grouse: Two reports in *Winneshiek*: 1 on 12 Apr at Cardinal M (LR) and 1 on 18 May near Decorah (PDBS).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: Only two reports from the Kellerton BCA *Ringgold*: 24 on 28 Mar (DTh) and 3 on 2 May (JLF).

Wild Turkey: A high of 16 was reported on 20 Mar at Elk Creek M *Worth* (DAk).

Pied-billed Grebe: Migration commenced on 27 Mar with a report of 25 at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (CRE) and continued through 3 May with 68 reported at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Horned Grebe: First: 1 on 5 Mar at Cedar L *Linn* (BT). Last: 1 on 5 May at Rathbun WA *Wayne* (CRE).

Red-necked Grebe: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 10 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). A pair of birds lingered until 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), a typical breeding location for this species.

Eared Grebe: This species was far less abundant in Iowa this year with a high of only 8 reported 22 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). The first bird was ob-

served on 19 Mar at Blackhawk Bottoms *Des Moines* (CF) and the last on 5 May in *Kossuth* (DAk).

Western Grebe: Three reports: 1 on 2 May in *Dickinson* (DAk), 1 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), and 3 from 18–31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Widespread reports from 13 counties.

White-winged Dove: A single bird was reported on 23 May in Ames *Story* (SJD).

Mourning Dove: High of 14 on 14 Apr in *Lyon* (DAk).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: First: 1 on 12 May at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RLC).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Reported in only 5 counties this spring with the first on 16 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (CF).

Common Nighthawk: First: 1 on 12 May in *Warren* (JG).

Chuck-will's-widow: Three reports, all from Stephens SF *Lucas*: 2 on 5–6 May (MP, JB) and 1 on 24 May (JG).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Reports of 5–10 from 5–24 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (JB, MP, CRE, JG). Only two reports away from that location: 1 on 12 May at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (EMB) and 4 on 31 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (GLV).

Chimney Swift: The first birds were reported on 14 Apr in *Des Moines* (CF). High: 13 on 25 May in *Dickinson* (DAk).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first migrant arrived on schedule in *Clarke* on 19 Apr (SRH).

Yellow Rail: A record early bird was found dead in Ames *Story* on 3 Apr (Sarah Tosh *fide* TMH). Other reports included 1 on 30 Apr in *Black Hawk* (TGS), 1 on 2 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (JLF), and 1 on 3 May at Wildin Prairie *Kossuth* (MCK).

King Rail: No reports.

Virginia Rail: Widespread reports across the state with the first on 11 Apr at Silver L *Worth* and a high of 9 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Sora: The first migrants arrived on 4 Apr at Wildin Prairie *Kossuth* (MCK) and at Cone M *Louisa* (JLF), about one week earlier than last year. Migration peaked with 21 on 12 May at Muskrat Sl *Jones* (CRE).

Common Gallinule: Reported in 12 counties statewide with the first on 21 Apr (CRE) and a high of 13 on 27 May, both at Green Island WA *Jackson* (CRE, LGR).

American Coot: Reports from winter lingered into spring with a high of 1120 reported on 21 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Sandhill Crane: Reports of this species in spring are increasing and more widespread. First: 3 on 4 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE). High: 48 on 27 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MP).

Black-necked Stilt: All: 2 on 14 Apr at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (CF), 2 on 27 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 1 on 2 May in *Fremont* (JLF), 2 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk), 2–3 on 14 May at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF, CRE), 2 on 15 Mar at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (BVL, CJF), 1–2 from 16–19 May at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (m.ob.).

American Avocet: Migration started early with 1 on 12 Apr at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF, BCC), peaked with 11 on 21 Apr at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (JF), and finished with 1 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk, LAS).

Black-bellied Plover: Only 5 reports in May: 2 on 12 May at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), 2 on 14 May in *Sac* (DAk), 1–2 from 15–16 May at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (JG, JB), and 3 on 18 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

American Golden-Plover: First: 10 on 24 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (DP). Most: 184 on 19 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (RIA/PHA). Last: 2 on 22 May in *Woodbury* (GLV).

Semipalmated Plover: The first migrants arrived on 12 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (RLC) and at Coralville L *Johnson* (BCC). Migration peaked with 65 on 15 May at Coralville L *Johnson* (CRE) and ended with 1 on 24 May at Oak Grove Beach *Polk* (RLC).

Piping Plover: Three reports of singles in Apr: 1 on 19 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (DTh, RIA/PHA), 1 on 21 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB, BCC), and 1 on 17 May at Jester P *Polk* (RLC).

Killdeer: Reports came early again this year likely due to overwintering birds. The first 2 birds were seen on 2 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Migration peaked with 34 on 19 Apr in *Sac* (DAk).

Upland Sandpiper: First: 1 on 17 Apr at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS). Most: 5 on 2 May at the Kellerton BCA *Ringgold* (CF, JLF).

Whimbrel: Three birds were seen on 16 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (m.ob.) and a single bird was seen on 30 May at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD–ph).

Hudsonian Godwit: Reported in 8 counties north of a line from *Madison* to *Johnson* with the first on 17 Apr at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF, BCC–ph), high of 6 on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB) and on 27 Apr at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DTh), and last 24 May in *Black Hawk* (MP).

Marbled Godwit: Reported in only 4 counties north of *Polk* with the first on 12 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and last on 29 May at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TGS, BCC–ph, CRE). A report of 9 on 20 Apr in *Fayette* (PDBS) was both the high and easternmost report this spring.

Ruddy Turnstone: The first report of 2 on 9 May at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (LAS) was the westernmost report and the last on 30 May at Cone M *Louisa* (JF) was the easternmost report. Reported in 3 counties in between.

RUFF: A likely female was first located by Jim Forde on 26 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* and subsequently seen by many until 28 Apr (*JF–ph, *MHB, *CRE, m.ob.).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: 3 on 16 Apr in *Greene* (DAk). A report of 40 on 29 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DTh) was both the high and the last report of spring.

Sanderling: Migration commenced with a single bird on 11 Apr at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF), the second earliest report on record. Peak migration occurred on 21 May with 19 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh, JB), and the last birds were reported on 30 May at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (TGS).

Dunlin: A single bird on 18 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE) beat the earliest report on record by more than one week. An impressive count of 75 was reported on 5 May at Coralville L *Johnson* (BCC). A total of 16 on 24 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC) was the last report this spring.

Baird's Sandpiper: This early peep

first arrived on 28 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC–ph). Migration peaked on 14 May with 23 in *Sac* (DAk) and ended with a single bird on 17 May at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (RLC).

Least Sandpiper: First: 3 on 27 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Most: 270 on 25 Apr in *Sac* (DAk). Last: 90 on 23 May in *Sac* (DAk).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Right on schedule, the first migrant arrived on 27 Apr at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DTh). Migration peaked in mid-May with 50 on the 14th and again on the 23rd in *Sac* (DAk). The last migrants passed through on 31 May by way of Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: A pair of this uncommon spring migrant was seen on 23 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DAk).

Pectoral Sandpiper: First on 7 Mar at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF), more than one week earlier than last spring. Most: 200 on 27 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 1 on 18 Apr at Coralville L *Johnson* (BCC). Most: 230 on 14 May and again on 23 May in *Sac* (DAk).

Western Sandpiper: A single bird was reported on 9 May at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Reported in 9 counties with the first on 27 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC) and last on 23 May in *Greene* (DAk). A report of 17 on 13 May at Coralville L *Johnson* (CRE) was the high count this spring.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Exactly one month earlier than its short-billed counterpart, the first migrant arrived on 27 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). High counts included 81 on 25 Apr in *Sac* (DAk) and 45 on 26 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (WO), and the last birds were seen on 6 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JG).

Wilson's Snipe: First: 1 on 1 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). Most: 31 on 19 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC).

American Woodcock: Reported in 11 counties with the first on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). A report of 10 on 19 Mar at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (DTh) was the high count this spring.

Spotted Sandpiper: The first migrants arrived on 17 Apr at Lake Hendricks *Howard* (MP), Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB), and Blue L *Monona* (GLV). Most: 23 on 14 May in *Sac* (DAk).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: 2 on 16 Apr in *Greene* (DAk). Most: 14 on 27 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (MHB). Last: 1 on 10 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Greater Yellowlegs: Reports were numerous and statewide again this spring. Migration commenced with a single bird on 14 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC) and peaked with 42 on 13 Apr at McCord Pond *Guthrie* (RIA/PHA). Last: 1 on 26 May at Cone M *Louisa* (JF).

Willet: Numerous reports statewide with the first on 15 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (RIA/PHA) and last on 16 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). High counts included 39 on 2 May in *Boone* (KTM) and 26 on 1 May at the Liscomb SL *Marshall* (MP).

Wilson's Phalarope: Several migrants arrived on 7 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (MHB, CRE, BCC) and in *Butler* (MP). A report of 13 on 2 May at West Branch Sewage Ponds *Cedar* (CRE) was the high for this spring.

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 2 on 2 May in *Page* (JLF), 1 on 21 May in *Hardin* (MP), 1 on 22 May at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC), and 2 on 29 May in *Woodbury* (GLV).

Bonaparte's Gull: Migration began with 1 on 5 Mar at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (JG) and peaked with 33 on 17 Apr at Coralville L *Johnson* (BCC). Last: 1 on 11 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (BCC).

BLACK-HEADED GULL X Ring-billed Gull: A single bird was reported on 31 May at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD–ph).

Laughing Gull: Two birds reported this spring: 1 from 17–19 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS, BCC–ph) and 1 from 21–23 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB–ph, JG–ph, DAk–ph, RLC, SJD–ph).

Franklin's Gull: The first birds were reported on 1 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh, RLC), approximately two weeks earlier than last year. A high count of 340 was reported on 24 May at Spring Run Wetland Complex *Dickinson* (MHB).

Ring-billed Gull: High: 2800 on 28 Mar in *Dickinson* (DAk).

CALIFORNIA GULL: An ad male was observed on 31 May at Marble L *Dickinson* (*SJD–ph).

Herring Gull: High: 52 on 2 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Thayer's Gull: No reports.

Iceland Gull: No reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Two reports: 1 on 31 Mar at Cedar Lake *Linn* (JF) and 1 on 7 Apr at Lake Macbride *Johnson* (JF).

Glaucous Gull: No reports.

Least Tern: No reports.

Caspian Tern: Migration commenced on 31 Mar at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (PEL) and peaked with 143 on 16 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG). Last: 3 on 24 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Black Tern: First: 6 on 8 May at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (TMH). High counts of 350, 320, and 300 were reported from 17–21 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), in *Emmet* (DAk), and at New L *Woodbury* (GLV), respectively.

Common Tern: Reported in 5 counties in May with the first on 1 May in Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and last on 27 May at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Forster's Tern: First: 1 on 2 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS). Most: 40 on 9 May at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (JB). Last: 15 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Common Loon: Migration began with 2 on 18 Mar at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk* (JG), peaked with 22 on 3 Apr at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), and ended with 1 on 29 May at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

Neotropic Cormorant: A single subadult was observed on 25 May at the Ingham-High Complex *Emmet* (*SJD–ph).

Double-crested Cormorant: Migration peaked with 405 on 19 Apr in *Carroll* (DAk). Other high counts included 400 on 25 Mar in *Warren* (JG) and 350 on 15 Apr at Crystal L *Hancock* (JB).

American White Pelican: Reports from winter lingered into spring again this year. A total of 3000–4000 birds was observed on 12 Apr at Badger L *Monona* (RLN, GLV), a high for this spring.

BROWN PELICAN: What is believed to be a single bird was reported at three different locations: Red Rock Res *Marion* from 3–7 May (*MC–ph, *JB–

ph, *JG–ph, *SJD–ph, m.ob.), Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 17 May (*CRE, *MHB–ph, *JF–ph, BCC–ph, LGR), and at Credit Island P *Scott* on 23 May (*DF–ph).

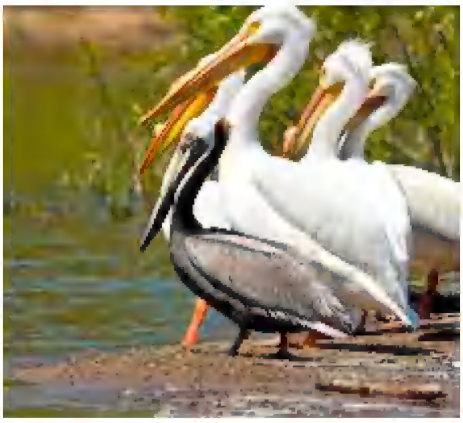
American Bittern: Reported in 12 counties north and west of *Warren* with the first on 26 Mar at Ottosen Potholes *Humboldt* (JN), the third earliest report on record.

Least Bittern: Reported in only four counties with the first on 10 May at Harrier M *Boone* (DTh).

Great Blue Heron: Only three reports: 1 on 8 Mar in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 1 on 12 Mar at Union Grove SP *Tama* (MP), and 1 on 23 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Great Egret: The first migrants arrived on 26 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and in *Marshall* (MP). The high count of 29 occurred 27 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (LGR) and the last bird was seen on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Snowy Egret: Reported in 5 counties north of *Polk* with the first on 27 Apr at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and last on 23 May at Silver L *Dickinson* (MHB).



Brown Pelican, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *5 May 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Little Blue Heron: No reports.

Cattle Egret: An early bird was found on 30 Mar in *Linn* (BCC–ph). Reported in an additional 10 counties statewide with the last on 26 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Green Heron: First: 1 on 13 Apr in *Warren* (JG).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: A high count of 5 was seen on 11 May at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF). Reports of 1–3 birds from an additional 8 counties with the last on 29 May in *Hardin* (BCC).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A single bird was seen on 9 May at Mt. Sterling M *Van Buren* (CF).

GLOSSY IBIS: All: 1–2 birds from 21–24 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (*DAk–ph, LAS, ET).

White-faced Ibis: Reported in 7 counties west of *Polk* except for the first bird on 11 Apr at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (JF) and 19 on 20 Apr at Heron Bend *Lee* (SJD). The last bird was seen on 18 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Turkey Vulture: First: 6 on 4 Mar in Urbandale *Polk* (BE). Most: 20 on 13 May at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (CRE).

Osprey: Singles reported in 10 counties north of Interstate 80 with the first on 28 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh).

WHITE-TAILED KITE: The first record of this species in the state was seen on 18 Apr near Cardinal M *Howard* (*LR–ph). Amazingly, the second record of this species was seen on 23 May at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* (*AR–ph).

Mississippi Kite: Four reports from the 2 regular breeding locations for this



White-tailed Kite, Cardinal M, Howard, *18 April 2017. Photograph by Larry Reis, Calmar, IA.*

species. A single bird was observed on 15 May and a pair observed copulating on 16 May at Moore Memorial P *Wapello* (CF, BCC–ph). Similarly, a single bird was observed on 27 May and a pair on 31 May in West Des Moines near Ashworth P *Polk* (JG–ph, DTh).

Bald Eagle: Only 7 reports with a high of 121 on 5 Mar at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (JG).

Northern Harrier: Reports of 1–2 birds continued from winter in 20 counties across the state. Last: 1 on 16 May at Harmon L *Winnebago* (DAk).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: All: 1 from 2–15 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 1 on 29 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 6 Apr at Water Works P *Polk* (JB), 1 on 16 Apr in *Greene* (DAk), 1 on 7 May in *Lucas* (JB), and 1 on 12 May in *Howard* (PH).

Cooper's Hawk: Reports of 1–2 birds in 9 counties this spring.

Northern Goshawk: No reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reported in 20 counties mostly statewide as this species continues to expand its range in Iowa. A report of 3 on 6 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (CRE) was the high count this spring.

Broad-winged Hawk: A high count of 47 on 19 Apr in *Carroll* (DAk) was the peak of migration this spring. First on 9 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Swainson's Hawk: A total of 11 reports mostly in Apr with the first on 8 Apr in *Polk* (AMJ), high of 4 on 14 Apr in *Lyon* (DAk), and last on 7 May in *Kossuth* (MCK).

Red-tailed Hawk: Only 7 reports of single birds from 5 Mar – 14 May.

Rough-legged Hawk: Reported in 6 counties with the last on 13 May in *Story* (MCM).

Golden Eagle: All: An ad on 4 Mar at the Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (LAS), 1 on 1 on 17 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), an ad on 28 Mar at Loess Hills WA *Monona* (TJL), and 1 on 13 Apr at Mallard M *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

Barn Owl: All: Up to 4 birds were seen starting 6 May and continuing into summer in *Lucas* (BE), 1 on 8 May in Sioux City *Woodbury* (RWR), 1 was seen for nearly one week starting on 9 May in *Clay* (LAS), and a nesting pair on 9 May in *Franklin* (BVL).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Only 3 reports: 1 on 22 Apr in Liscomb *Marshall* (MP), 1 on 18 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (BCC), and 1 on 31 May again in Liscomb *Marshall* (MP).

Great Horned Owl: Reported in 6 counties this spring with confirmed breeding in 3 counties. A single ad with 2 fledglings were seen on 31 Mar at Brookside P *Story* (TMH), recently fledged young on 6 Apr in Lone Tree *Johnson*

(BCC), and an occupied nest on 8 Apr at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG).

Snowy Owl: A single ad male was photographed in *Hancock* from 20–23 Mar (Tonya Gray *fide* PH).

Barred Owl: Reports of 1–2 birds in 9 counties from 1 Mar – 27 May.

Long-eared Owl: A single bird on 22 Mar in *Floyd* (BVL) was the only report.

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 9 Mar at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (DTh) and 1 on 4 Apr at Wildin Prairie *Kossuth* (MCK).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 6 Mar at Moorehead Pioneer P *Ida* (PH), 1 on 13 Mar at the Ingham-High Complex *Emmet* (JN), and 1 on 22 Mar at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (TSS).

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 1–2 birds reported in 11 counties.

Red-headed Woodpecker: Numerous reports of 1–3 birds with a high of 4 on 24 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Widespread reports of 1–2 birds from 12 counties with the first on 28 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (MP).

Northern Flicker: A high of 23 was reported on 30 Mar at Errington M *Polk* (RLC).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported in 20 counties as far northwest as *Clay* (LAS).

American Kestrel: Reports of 1–2 birds from 16 counties.

Merlin: All: 1 on 1 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 1 on 21 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DTh), 1 on 23 Apr near Bancroft *Kossuth* (MCK), and 1 from 29 Apr – 2 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Peregrine Falcon: Reports of 1–2 birds from 12 counties with the northernmost report of 1 bird on 25 May near Lansing *Allamakee* (MP).

Prairie Falcon: Two reports: 1 on 5 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD–details) and 1 on 25 Mar in *Sioux* (LAS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Reported in 11 counties in May with the first on 9 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The first bird arrived on 9 May at Indian Lake P *Van Buren* (JWR). A high count of 24 was observed on 26 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Reported in 15 counties in May with the first on 12 May at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported in 8 counties east of *Polk* with the first on 8 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JWR).

Alder Flycatcher: The first migrants entered the state on 16 May in *Monroe* (BCC). A peak of 6 was observed on 21 May at Littlefield County Park *Audubon* (DAk) and again on 27 May in *Adair* (DAk).

Willow Flycatcher: First: 1 on 10 May at Carney M *Polk* (DAk). Most: 9 on 27 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE).

Least Flycatcher: Migration started nearly one week later than last year with the first on 4 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and subsequently peaked one week later than last year with 12 on 21 May at Littlefield County Park *Audubon* (DAk).

Eastern Phoebe: The first bird was reported on 5 Mar in *Clarke* (SRH), the third-earliest report on record.

Great Crested Flycatcher: First on

2 May in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), approximately one week later than the first report last year.

Western Kingbird: Reported in 4 counties in the central part of the state ex-



Great Crested Flycatcher, Anderson Lake, Hamilton, *27 May 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

cept a single bird observed on 17 May in *Dickinson* (DAk).

Eastern Kingbird: First: 1 on 22 Apr at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (MHB).

Loggerhead Shrike: Reported in 12 counties mostly west of *Tama* and south of *Boone* with the first on 15 Mar in *Ringgold* (JRL). Single birds on 14 Apr in *Osceola* (DAk) and 28 Apr along the Little Sioux R *Cherokee* (DB) were the northwestern most reports.

Northern Shrike: Two birds lingered into spring: 1 on 12 Mar in *Fayette* (PDBS) and 1 on 19 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC–ph).

White-eyed Vireo: Reported in only 6 counties south of *Linn* and east of *Polk* with the first on 15 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (CF).

Bell's Vireo: This species continues to be found farther north in the state with reports this spring on 23 May at Rush L *Osceola* (MHB), 30 May at Panicum Prairie *Worth* (BVL), and 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). Reported in 9 additional counties with the first on 8 May in *Van Buren* (CF).

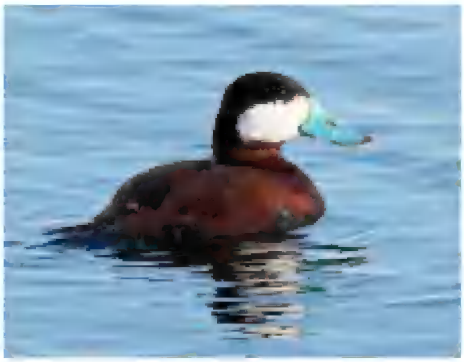
Yellow-throated Vireo: First: 1 on 23 Apr at Geode SP *Henry* (MHB).

Blue-headed Vireo: Singles were observed on 14 Apr in *Osceola* (DAk–details), the earliest report on record, and on 19 Apr in *Johnson* (JLF), which ties the third earliest report on record. The last bird was observed on 24 May at Lost Island Lake SP *Palo Alto* (MHB).

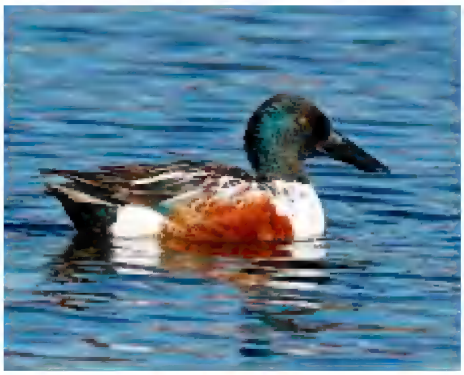
Philadelphia Vireo: Reported in 7



Western Kingbird, Des Moines, Polk, *9 May 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*



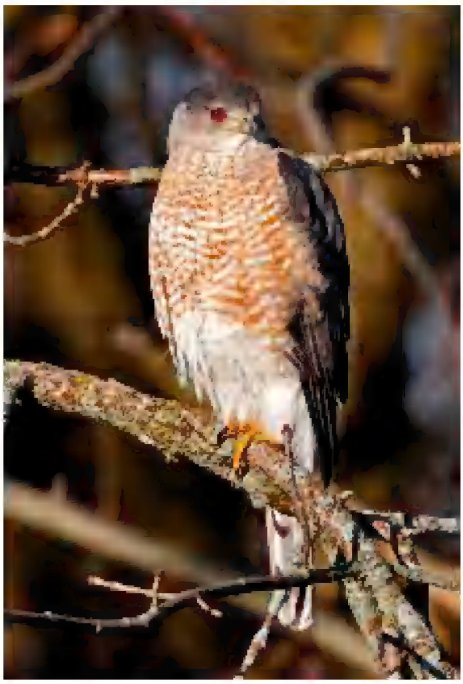
Ruddy Duck, Swan Lake, Johnson*, 10 April 2017. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



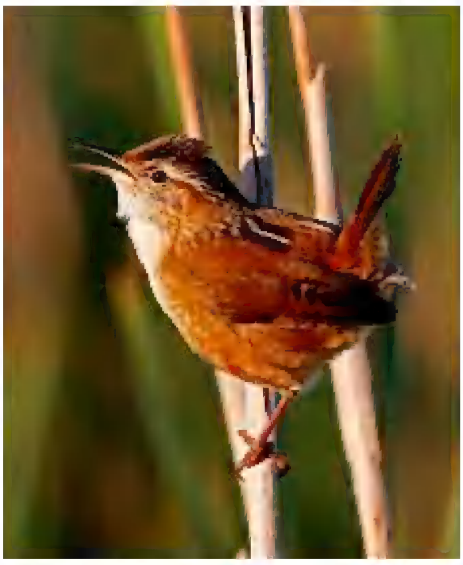
Northern Shoveler, Swan Lake SP, Carroll*, 16 April 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



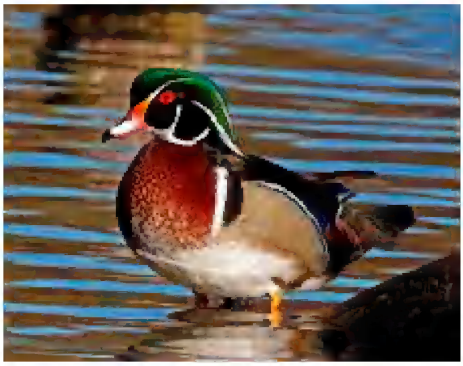
Virginia Rail, Snake Creek M, Greene*, 12 May 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Cooper's Hawk, Swan Lake SP, Carroll*, 11 April 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Marsh Wren, Harrier M, Boone*, 12 May 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Wood Duck, Swan Lake SP, Carroll, *16 April 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Horned Grebe, Ida, *3 April 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



Cinnamon Teal, Ledges SP, Boone, *30 March 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Great Horned Owls, Lone Tree, Johnson, *6 April 2017. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



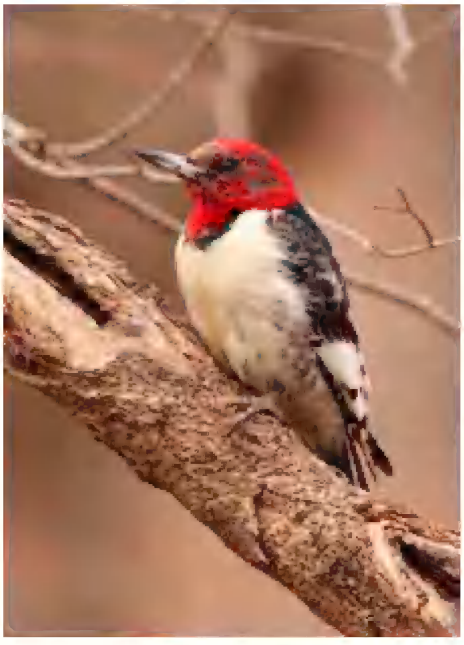
American Pipit, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *19 March 2017. Photo by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Blue-winged Warbler, Stephens SF, Monroe*, 14 May 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Prairie Warbler, Stephens SF, Monroe*, 14 May 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Red-headed Woodpecker, Macbride NRA, Johnson*, 11 March 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Belted Kingfisher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson*, 23 April 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



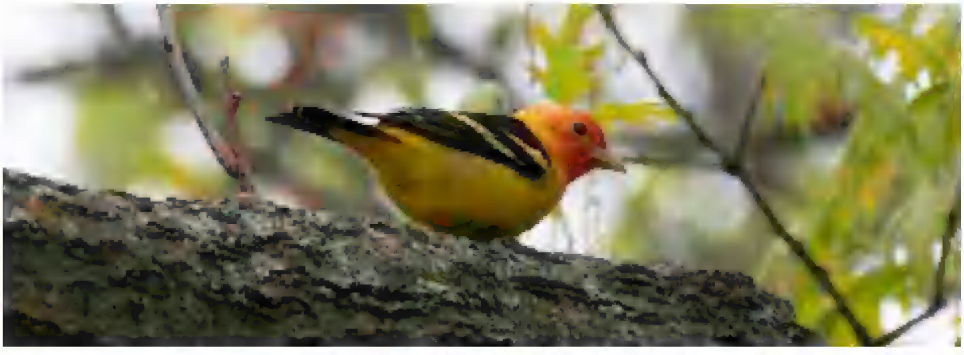
American Woodcock, Cairo Woods, Louisa*, 15 March 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Magnolia Warbler, Sweet M, Bremer*, 21 May 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Blackpoll Warbler, Sweet M, Bremer*, 21 May 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Western Tanager, Jester Park, Polk*, 3 May 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

counties in May with the first on 11 May at Lake Nodaway *Adair* (DAk) and last on 21 May at Pilot Knob SP *Winnebago* (BCC).

Warbling Vireo: Several early reports this spring. The first was observed on 15 Apr at Sycamore Access *Polk* (KVS–details), the earliest report on record. A single bird on 17 Apr at Fox River WA *Van Buren* ties the second earliest report on record. Lastly, single birds at Belva-Deer RA *Keokuk* (LGR–details, BSc–details) and Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB), both on 19 Apr, tie the third earliest report on record.

Red-eyed Vireo: A single bird heard singing on 25 Apr at Water Works P *Polk* (JB) ties the third earliest report on record.

FISH CROW: A single bird was seen by many from 2–9 Apr at both Cherry Glen RA and Oak Grove RA of Saylorville Res *Polk* (*JB–ph, *AB–ph, *MHB–ph, *POR–ph, *JG–ph).

Horned Lark: A few large winter flocks lingered into spring with 30 on 17 Mar at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (DAk), 26 on 20 Mar in *Worth* (DAk), and 80 on 22 Mar in *Dickinson* (DAk).

Purple Martin: The first birds arrived on 8 Apr in Grimes *Polk* (JB). A report of 12 on 13 May in Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV) was the high count this spring.

Tree Swallow: First on 9 Mar at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB) ties the second earliest report on record. Migration peaked in impressive numbers this spring with high counts of 3300 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk) and 2870 on 27 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DAk).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 1 on 10 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Most: 260 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Bank Swallow: Reported in 8 counties with the first on 18 Apr at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (DAk) and high of 340 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Cliff Swallow: First: 1 on 9 Apr along the High Trestle Trail *Boone* (JB). Most: 300 on 21 May at Littlefield County Park *Audubon* (DAk).

Barn Swallow: Singles on 23 Mar and 25 Mar at Water Works P *Polk* (JB, JG) were nearly two weeks earlier than the first birds last spring.

Black-capped Chickadee: A report of 14 on 25 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (DAk) was the high count this spring.

Tufted Titmouse: Reported in 6 central counties with the northernmost reports on 17 May at Fort Defiance SP *Emmet* and on 28 May in *Mitchell* (JB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reported in 9 counties statewide with the last on 22 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (MP).

Brown Creeper: Last: 1 on 24 May at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (MP).

House Wren: A single bird on 1 Apr in *Polk* (KVS) was the second earliest report on record.

Winter Wren: A single bird on 3 May at Lost Island Lake SP *Palo Alto* (DAk) was both a rather late and the northernmost report. Reported in 5 additional counties.

Sedge Wren: A push of early migrants made this a record year for this species with a total of thirteen record early reports received. A total of 9 reports were earlier than the previous earliest

on record: 1 on 7 Apr at the Grant Park Area *Sac* (EB), 1 on 15 Apr at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB), 1 at Banner Flats WA *Warren* (JG), 1 at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS), 2 at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 9 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), all on 17 Apr, 4 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 1 at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (MHB) on 18 Apr, and 3 on 19 Apr in *Sac* (DAk). Two reports tied the previous earliest on record: 12 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and 1 in *Keokuk* (MP) on 20 Apr. Two reports would have been the second earliest on record in any previous year: 2 in *Boone* (TMH) and 4 in *Dickinson* (DAk) on 21 Apr.

Marsh Wren: Two record early reports of birds that likely over-wintered in the state: 1 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk–details) and 1 on 26 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD–details).

Carolina Wren: Reported in 15 counties mostly east of *Polk* with a single report on 16 Apr in *Adair* (DAk) being the westernmost report.

Bewick's Wren: At least 2 birds were reported from 7 Apr – 29 May at the Argyle Junkyard *Lee* (CF, CRE, LGR, JG, BCC, MHB), a regular location for this species.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The first migrants arrived on 10 Apr at Water Works P *Polk* (JB).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Migration commenced on 20 Mar at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP) and peaked on 30 Mar with 25 at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (CRE). Last: 3 on 15 Apr at Pilot Knob SP *Winnebago* (JB).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First: 1 on 26 Mar in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP). Most: 17 on 21 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). Last: 1 on 26 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc).

Eastern Bluebird: Reports from winter continued into spring, albeit at lower numbers than last year, with 7 on 21 May at Littlefield County P *Audubon* (DAk) being the high count.

Townsend's Solitaire: No reports.

Veery: Reported in 13 counties east of *Hancock* with the first on 8 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC) and last on 28 May at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Two record early reports this spring: 1 on 12 Apr at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS) and 1 on 17 Apr at Starr's Cave Nature Center *Des Moines* (CF). Reported in 11 additional counties.

Swainson's Thrush: First: 1 on 5 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB). Most: 35 on 14 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (KVS). Last: 2 on 31 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Hermit Thrush: Migration started on 14 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC) and peaked with 9 on 13 Apr at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). The last bird exited the state from Hickory Hill P *Johnson* on 8 May (BCC).

Wood Thrush: A single bird on 20 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (SJD–ph) was the third earliest report on record. Reported in 18 additional counties.

Gray Catbird: About one week earlier than typical arrival, the first migrant appeared on 21 Apr at Eldon WA *Davis* (MHB).

Brown Thrasher: First on 1 Apr at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE).

Northern Mockingbird: Seen in 12

counties as reports of this species become more widespread in the state. The northernmost reports include single birds on 2 May at Knutson's Pond *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and on 16 May in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Cedar Waxwing: A little late to catch a game, a large roosting flock of



Northern Mockingbird, Selma WA, Van Buren, *21 April 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

280 was seen at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City *Johnson* on 16 Mar (MHB). Later this spring on 22 May, a concentration of 230 presumably migrants was reported at Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported in 6 eastern Iowa counties with the westernmost reports in *Marshall* on 2 Mar, 6 Mar, 22 Mar, and 5 Apr (MP, DTh).

American Pipit: Making an early showing this spring, 2 migrants flew over Jensen M *Madison* on 4 Mar (JG–details) to constitute the third earliest report on record. Also early but just outside the record early dates, 2 migrants visited Sandhill L *Woodbury* on 5 Mar (GLV). Reported in 7 additional counties north of *Audubon*.

Purple Finch: The species vacated the state early this spring with the last lingering winter visitors seen on 22 Apr at the Thunder Bridge area *Clay* (LAS). Reported in 10 additional counties statewide.

Red Crossbill: No reports.

White-winged Crossbill: No reports.

Common Redpoll: No reports.

Pine Siskin: Despite their impressive showing last spring, surprisingly there was not a single report this spring.

American Goldfinch: A flock of 34 on 28 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (RLC) was both the first and largest group observed this spring.

Lapland Longspur: High counts included 1370 on 22 Mar in *Dickinson* (DAk), 650 on 17 Mar in *Emmet* (DAk), and 320 on 13 Mar in *Boone* (JG).

Smith's Longspur: Reported in 12 counties with high counts of 90 on 26 Mar in *Greene* (JG) and 52 on 21 Apr in both *Kossuth* and *Palo Alto* (DAk).

Snow Bunting: The only report was



Purple Finch, Macbride NRA, Johnson, *11 March 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

2 birds on 20 Mar in *Mitchell* (DAk).

Ovenbird: A record early bird was seen on 17 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE) for the first report of the spring. On 22 Apr, 5 were seen at the same location (SJD) for the second earliest report on record. An impressive count of 38 on 26 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

Worm-eating Warbler: Only 4 reports all from the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee*: 2 on 20 Apr were the earliest reported on record (SJD–details), 1 on 24 Apr (CF) tied the third earliest report on record, and finally 1 on 22 May (BSc, CRE).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported south of a line from *Boone* to *Jackson* with the first on 28 Mar at Geode SP *Henry* (CF–details) being the third earliest report on record.

Northern Waterthrush: A single bird on 20 Apr at Heron Bend Conservation Area *Lee* (SJD–ph) tied the third earliest report on record. Reported in 13 additional counties mostly east of *Audubon*.

Golden-winged Warbler: Reported in 13 counties statewide with the first on 3 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (CRE) and the last on 22 May at Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE) and Ashworth P *Polk* (JB).

Blue-winged Warbler: First on 27 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (BCC). A single bird on 11 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH) was the westernmost report.

Black-and-white Warbler: The first report was from the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* on 17 Apr (CRE) and the last from Jester P *Polk* on 22 May (RLC).

Prothonotary Warbler: The second earliest bird on record appeared 20 Apr at Blackhawk Bottoms WA *Des Moines* (CF), a usual location for this species. Additional reports were mostly south of *Allamakee* and east of *Polk* except for a single bird on 16 May at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

Tennessee Warbler: Migration commenced with a single bird on 2 May at Water Works P *Polk* (JB) and peaked with 35 on 13 May at the Sycamore Access *Polk* (KVS). The last bird was seen on 31 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF).

Orange-crowned Warbler: A single bird on 9 Apr in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP–details) was an unanticipated sighting. Last on 25 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Nashville Warbler: First: 2 on 21 Apr at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (CRE). Most: 30 on 7 May at Stephens SF *Monroe* (CRE). Last: 1 on 25 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Connecticut Warbler: Observers were lucky to see this uncommon spring migrant in 8 counties mostly in the central third of the state north to south. The first was seen on 14 May in Johnston *Polk* (DTh) and the last on 26 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP). *Cerro Gordo* hosted the northernmost report again this spring with a single bird from 17–22 May at East P (BVL).

Mourning Warbler: Slightly more common than the closely related Connecticut, this species was reported in 12 counties mostly statewide with the first on 10 May at both Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and Carney M *Polk* (DAk). Reports continued through the end of spring with a single bird reported 31 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Kentucky Warbler: Reported south of a line from *Boone* to *Allamakee* with the first on 24 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (CF) tying the earliest report on record. An uncommon breeder in the state, reports continued through the end of spring with a single bird on 31 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC).

Common Yellowthroat: A single bird on 20 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (SJD) tied the third earliest report on record.

Hooded Warbler: This species made a strong appearance in *Cerro Gordo* this spring, a surprise to local birders, with appearances in Mason City (PH, BVL), Clear Lake (PH), and at Parker's Woods (BVL). Other reports included singles on 10 May in *Johnson* (BCC–ph) and on 12 May at both Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC) and Jester P *Polk* (SJD).

American Redstart: Arriving early again this spring, a male was seen 24 Apr at Shaver P *Linn* (BSc) to set the new record early date.

Cape May Warbler: Reports of 1–2 birds in 7 counties in May with the first on 11 May at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MP) and the last on 21 May at Littlefield County P *Audubon* (DAk).

Cerulean Warbler: Reported in 7 counties with the first on 6 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB). A single bird on 8 May at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (TMH) was the westernmost report, and reports continued through the end of spring in *Allamakee* and *Clayton*, the heart of the breeding range for this species in the state.

Northern Parula: The unmistakable song of this species was first heard on 10 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (CF).

Magnolia Warbler: First: 1 on 6 May at Colyn WA *Lucas* (JB). Most: 5 on 14 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). Last: 1 on 27 May in *Adams* (DAk).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Nine reports from 9 different counties north of *Lucas* with the first on 9 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and last on 23 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Blackburnian Warbler: Only 9 reports from 8 counties east of a line from *Emmet* to *Polk* with the first on 9 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC, CRE) and the last on 31 May in Johnston *Polk* (DTh).

Yellow Warbler: Record early arrivals for this species again this year: single birds on 20 Apr at both Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (TSS–ph) and in *Lee* (SJD) tied the second earliest report on record and a single bird on 22 Apr at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (MHB) tied the third earliest report on record.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The date to arrive for this species was 8 May with several individuals seen at Emma McCarthy Lee P *Story* (DCH), Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (TB), Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP), and at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC). Last on 31 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF).

Blackpoll Warbler: A record early male was seen on 18 Apr at Belva-Deer RA *Keokuk* (BSc–details, LGR–details). A high count of 10 was seen on 22 May at Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB) and the last on 27 May in *Adams* (DAk).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: A single male on 14 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) was the only report.

Palm Warbler: Two early migrants on 12 Apr at Blackhawk Bottoms WA *Des Moines* (CF) were the earliest reported on

record. Additionally, a single bird on 17 Apr at Banner Flats WA *Warren* (JG) tied the previous record early report. An impressive count of 42 was seen on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk) and the last bird was reported on 23 May at Christopherson Sl *Dickinson* (MHB).

Pine Warbler: Reported in 11 counties east of a line from *Polk* to *Cerro Gordo*. The first bird seen on 22 Mar at Shimek SF *Lee* (CF) was the earliest on record and the second seen on 12 Apr at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TSS–ph) tied the previous second earliest report on record. The last was seen on 29 May at Stephens SF *Lucas* (JG–ph).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: One of the most common migrant warblers, the first was seen on 21 Mar at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (TMH). Migration peaked with an unbelievable count of 120 on 21 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). The last bird was seen on 24 May at Lost Island Lake P *Palo Alto* (MHB).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First on 9 Apr at Starr's Cave Nature Area *Des Moines* (CF) and last on 27 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: A single bird was seen on 6 May at Brookside P *Story* (*JAM) and a singing male was seen by many near the Thousand Acre Unit of Stephens SF *Monroe* from 7–29 May (*CRE, *MHB–ph, *AB–ph, *DCH–ph, *TNJ, *PDBS).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Always a joy to see in spring, migration commenced on 23 Apr at Blackhawk Bottoms WA *Des Moines* (CF) and finished on 30 May in *Polk* (DAk).

Canada Warbler: First on 8 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) tied the second earliest report on record. The last bird was seen on 29 May at Sand Springs WA *Hardin* (CRE).

Wilson's Warbler: First: 1 on 7 May in *Lucas* (KVS, JB). Most: 6 on 21 May in *Audubon* (DAk). Last: 1 on 27 May at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported in 7 counties in May mostly east of *Polk* and south of *Black Hawk* with the first on 9 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC). Singles in *Adams* on 27 May and at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (CJF) on 30 May were the westernmost and northernmost reports, respectively, as reports of this species continue to become more widespread in spring.

Spotted Towhee: Only two reports: 1 on 9 Mar in *Lee* (CRF) and a potential Eastern Towhee X Spotted Towhee hybrid on 21 May at Littlefield County Park *Audubon* (DAk–details).

Eastern Towhee: First on 27 Mar in Altoona *Polk* (MC), nearly three weeks later than the first report last spring.

American Tree Sparrow: The high count of 120 was reported on the first day of the spring season at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk). The last bird was seen on 8 Apr at Snake Creek M *Greene* (KVS).

Chipping Sparrow: Approximately 3 weeks later than last spring, the first migrant arrived on 25 Mar in *Dickinson* (DAk). A report of 43 on 14 Apr in *Lyon* (DAk) was the high.

Clay-colored Sparrow: The first migrant arrived 17 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC). Subsequent reports of migrants were widespread through mid-May with a high count of 18 on 25 Apr in *Sac* (DAk). Reports after 16 May were con-

centrated north of *Hancock*, which is the typical breeding range for this species.

Field Sparrow: First on 4 Mar at Jensen M *Madison* (JG).

Vesper Sparrow: First on 30 Mar at Errington M *Polk* (RLC).

Lark Sparrow: Reports were statewide this spring with the first on 13 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC).

Savannah Sparrow: First on 23 Mar in *Warren* (JG).

Grasshopper Sparrow: With the exception of a single bird on 22 May in



Savannah Sparrow, Harrier M, Boone, *17 May 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Allamakee (PDBS), reports were south of *Hardin* with the first on 17 Apr at Mt. Sterling M *Van Buren* (CRE).

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported in 12 counties with the first on 10 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). A pair on 29 May at Walch WA *Cerro Gordo* (CJF) was the northernmost report.

Le Conte's Sparrow: A single bird on 24 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) was the only report this spring.

Nelson's Sparrow: A small flock of 5 migrants was seen 22 May at Pintail Wetlands *Hardin* (TSS–ph).

Fox Sparrow: The last migrant vacated the state on 25 Apr from *Sac* (DAk).

Song Sparrow: Although the first bird was seen on 1 Mar in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), large concentrations of migrants were not seen until 1 Apr with 43 in *Dickinson* (DAk). A high of 58 was reported 9 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk).

Lincoln's Sparrow: A single bird observed 25 Mar at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG–details) tied the second earliest report on record. Reports continued throughout spring with the last on 26 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO),

Swamp Sparrow: A report of 40 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk) was an impressive count for a single location.

White-throated Sparrow: High counts of this regular winter visitor included 100 on 2 May in *Kossuth* (DAk), 75 on 18 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE), and 50 on 3 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (DAk). Last: 1 on 22 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Harris's Sparrow: Lingering winter birds were far less numerous compared to last spring with a high count of only 7 on 1 Mar at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (DAk). Last: 1 on 25 May in *Dickinson* (DAk).

White-crowned Sparrow: Most: 40 on 27 Apr at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH). Last: 1 on 22 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Dark-eyed Junco: Large overwintering flocks lingered into spring with high counts of 132 on 1 Apr in *Dickinson* (DAk) and 50 on 20 Mar at Elk Creek M *Worth* (DAk). The last winter visitor was observed on 23 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (WO).

Summer Tanager: With the exception of a single bird at Stone SP *Wood-*

bury on 24 May (GLV), reported east of a line from *Polk* to *Cerro Gordo* with the first on 6 May in *Lucas* (RLC).

Scarlet Tanager: Stephen Dinsmore found a single bird (SJD–ph) at Shimek SF *Lee* on 20 Apr to tie the second earliest report on record.

WESTERN TANAGER: Reported at four locations this spring: a single male from 30 Apr – 3 May at Jester P *Polk* (*AB–ph, RIA/PHA), a single male in Ames *Story* from 1–3 May (BCC–ph, WO, MP, DAk–ph, *HZ–ph, *EEO–ph, *TMH), a single male at the Saylorville Visitor Center *Polk* (*AMJ, BCC–ph, SJD) on 3 May, and a single male in Centerville *Appanoose* on 7 May (MP, RLC, *TNJ–ph).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First on 20 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (SJD–ph) tied the third earliest report on record.

Blue Grosbeak: Reported in only 4 counties this spring: 1 on 8 May at the Argyle Junkyard *Lee* (CF, JLF), 1 on 21 May and again on 26 May in *Audubon* (DAk), 1 on 23 May at Rush L *Osceola* (MHB), and 1 on 27 May in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL).

Indigo Bunting: A single bird observed on 23 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (LGR) tied the third earliest report on record.

Dickcissel: First on 5 May in *Wayne* (CRE).

Bobolink: Reports for this grassland breeding species were concentrated in May with the first on 4 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Eastern Meadowlark: First reports of this species continue to be early in spring as we see more meadowlarks overwintering in the state, although it's challenging to ascertain whether these are Easterns or Westerns. Diane Porter reported a possible individual on 1 Mar in Fairfield *Jefferson*, which ties the earliest spring report on record. A single bird was seen at Errington M *Polk* (RLC) on 3 Mar, and one was heard singing on 6 Mar at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Western Meadowlark: Reported statewide from *Woodbury* to *Louisa* with the first on 14 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First on 25 Mar at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV). High concentrations were observed at larger wetlands throughout the Prairie Pothole Region, the heart of the breeding range for this species. A total of 50–120 was seen at Trumbull L *Clay* from 21 Apr to 31 May (DAk). Elsewhere, counts of 50 were seen on 8 May at Myre Sl *Win-*



Eastern Meadowlark, Kellerton Grasslands, Ringgold, 17 April 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

nebago (TMH) and on 17 May in *Kossuth* (DAk), and 48 on 22 May at Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Rusty Blackbird: Migration commenced with 120 on 1 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and peaked with a report of 260 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk). The last migrants were seen on 14 Apr in *Osceola* (DAk).

Brewer's Blackbird: The first report of 40 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk) was also the high count. Reported in 9 additional counties statewide.

Great-tailed Grackle: Continuing to expand in the state, this species was reported in 13 counties from *Clay* in the northwest to *Monroe* in the southeast. A high count of 14 was seen on 3 May at Dan Greene Sl *Clay* (DAk), a known and well-established breeding location for this species.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Most: 6000 on 5 Mar at Sunken Grove WA *Pocahontas* (DAk).

Orchard Oriole: First on 5 May at the Rathbun WA *Wayne* (CRE).

Baltimore Oriole: A single bird heard calling on 20 Apr in Water Works P *Polk* (JB) was the second earliest report on record.

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Report of the Records Committee for 2016

Paul Hertzel

A total of 49 records submitted in 2016 were reviewed by the committee, with 47 pertaining to events during the calendar year 2016, and 2 records from the past. 42 of these records were accepted by the committee and 7 were not accepted. The committee appreciates the efforts of those who document Iowa's bird life and regards each record as deserving thoughtful, careful treatment in its review.

Committee members for 2016 with years in which their terms expire were: Matthew Keene (2016), Jay Gilliam (2017), Ann Johnson (2018), Bill Scheible (2019), Karen Viste-Sparkman (2020), Paul Skrade (2021), and Paul Hertzel (secretary, appointed by the committee). Mark Brown was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2017 and replacing Matthew Kenne whose term expired at the end of the year.

There were several important changes to the Iowa state list in 2016. An Inca Dove that appeared in the Altoona yard of Melissa Cory on 22 September became the 428th species on the Iowa checklist. Among actions taken by the American Ornithological Union (AOU) Checklist Committee, the name Green Violetear was changed to Mexican Violetear. Also, the Checklist Committee made considerable changes to the taxonomical ordering of species in North America.

There were two status changes made to species on the state checklist. The assignment of status is based on the number of reports during the previous ten years. A "Regular" species is one in which there are reports in 8, 9, or 10 of the most recent 10 years. A "Casual" species is one in which there are reports in from 3 to 8 years, and an "Accidental" species is one in which there are reports in 3 or fewer years. After discussing inconsistencies in the assignments of status classifications, the committee approved the following changes at the annual meeting on 6 November 2016:

From Casual to Accidental: Brown Pelican. Recorded in only 2 of the last 10 years and not since 2008, Brown Pelican returns to Accidental status.

From Accidental to Casual: Say's Phoebe. With consecutive records in 2013, 2014, and 2015, Say's Phoebe has now been recorded in 4 of the last 10 years.

Each record reviewed by the Committee is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or more than 5 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R reflect the majority's opinion and indicate that physical evidence supports the identification. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details.

In the past, a separate photo file was maintained by the Records Committee. With

a significant increase in accompanying digital images, photos are now being archived as a part of the associated documentation and are not assigned a separate number. The classification **A-P** in the entries below indicates the presence of an identifiable photo with a record.

2016 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Brant: 7 Dec in rural *Black Hawk*. The description best fit the western race *B. b. nigricans* (*2016-44*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 87:66).

Harlequin Duck: 5 Feb at Ottumwa *Wapello* (*2016-01*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:49); 12 May in Waterloo *Black Hawk* (*2016-13*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:98, 109). These two records are Iowa's 7th and 8th for the species.

Inca Dove: 22–23 Sep in an Altoona *Polk* backyard, Iowa's first record (*2016-36*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:22, 87(1) cover, [Cory et al. 2017]).

Rufous Hummingbird: 26 Sep – 12 Oct in Glidden *Carroll* (*2016-38*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:21); 20 Nov – 15 Dec† in rural *Johnson* (*2016-40*, **A-S** 7–0, *IBL* 87:21–22).

Black Rail: 29 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (*2016-08*, **A-D** 5–2, 6–1, *IBL* 86:101); 21 Oct at a rural wetland in *Louisa* (*2016-29*, **A-D** 5–2, 6–1, *IBL* 87:23).

King Rail: 28 May – 2 Jun at Fraser Bend *Fremont* (*2016-16*, **A-R** 7–0, *IBL* 86:101, 143); 17 Jul – 27 Aug at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* (*2016-19*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 86:143); 24 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (*2016-20*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 86:143); 24 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (*2016-21*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 86:143).

Snowy Plover: 26 Apr Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2016-06*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:102); 30 May – 1 Jun at Pleasant Creek *Benton* (*2016-17*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:102).

Ruff: A female on 27 Apr in rural *Louisa* (*2016-07*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:103); 6 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2016-18*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 86:144).

Red Phalarope: An adult on 5–6 Aug was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2016-41*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 87:26).

Little Gull: On 3 Sep a juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2016-35*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:26); 15 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*2016-43*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:26) possibly the same bird as 2016-35.

California Gull: A first-year individual on 25 Sep was at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2016-37*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:27).

Slaty-backed Gull: An adult on 23–28 Dec at Morningstar Airport pits *Polk* was Iowa's 3rd record (*2016-47*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:71).

Great Black-backed Gull: An adult on 28 Feb was at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*2016-03*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:52, 53); During 20 Dec – 13 Jan a first-winter bird was at Lock & Dam #14 *Scott* (*2016-46*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:71, 83, 87(2) cover).



Figure 1. Snowy Plover, Pleasant Creek RA, Benton, *30 May 2016. Photograph by Jim Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.*

Arctic Tern: One on 30 Oct at Spirit L *Dickinson* was Iowa's 5th record (*2016-39*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 87:31).

Glossy Ibis: 3 May at Rapp P *Page* (*2016-31*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:100); 12–13 May Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (*2016-14*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:100); 19 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (2016-30, A-P 7–0, *IBL* 87:28, 32).

Swallow-tailed Kite: 9 Aug – 4 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (*2016-34*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:28, 33); 21 Sep, Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (*2016-25*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 87:33);

Burrowing Owl: A pair was in rural *Monona* 4–8 May (*2016-11*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:105, 106).

Say's Phoebe: 8–14 Apr at Swan L SP, *Carroll* (*2016-04*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:108, 111); 7 Dec – 13 Jan in Fairfield *Jefferson* (*2016-45*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 87:73).

Fish Crow: At least 1 and possibly 2 on 9 Apr along the nature trail at Starr Cave *Des Moines* (*2016-05*, **A-D** 6–1, 7–0, *IBL* 86:108).

Bewick's Wren: 24–28 Apr in rural *Des Moines* (*2016-22*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:111, 113); 3–4 May in rural *Polk* (*2016-23*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:113).



Figure 2. Glossy Ibis, Rapp Park, Page, *3 May 2016. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



Figure 3. Swallow-tailed Kite, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *21 August 2016. Photograph by Bill Blackburn, Coralville, IA.*

Sprague's Pipit: One on 24 Sep at Chichaqua *Polk* was Iowa's 11th record and 7th in the last ten years (*2016-28*, **A-D** 7–0, *IBL* 87:38).

Hoary Redpoll: 7 Apr in Badger *Webster* (*2016-33*, **A-P** 6–1, 7–0, *IBL* 86:121).

Lark Bunting: 14 May at Hallett Pits *Sac* (*2016-15*, **A-D** 6–1, 7–0, *IBL* 86:118); 1 Sep in rural *Audubon* (*2016-26*, **A-D** 6–1, 7–0, *IBL* 87:41).

Western Tanager: 5 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (*2016-10*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:112, 119).

Black-headed Grosbeak: a male on 11–13 May visited a northern *Cerro Gordo* feeder (*2016-12*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:119).

Bullock's Oriole: 1–4 May at a Mason City *Cerro Gordo* feeder (*2016-09*, **A-P** 7–0, *IBL* 86:120).

† denotes the bird died

2016 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A small group in northern *Ringgold* were undoubtedly identified correctly by an experienced observer, but the proximity to the reintroduced population at Kellerton WMA puts the wildness of the birds in question (*2016-02* **NA** 4–3, 1–6).

Black-headed Gull: The consensus of the committee was that the photos provided showed a Bonaparte's Gull (*2016-32* **NA** 0–7).

Glossy Ibis: Although several digiscoped photos in marginal lighting were helpful, they did not contain enough detail to separate this fall individual from White-faced Ibis which several reviewers believed was a better fit (*2016-24* **NA** 0–7).

Black Vulture: A single, excellent photo of an individual roosting in a tree appears to show a juvenile Turkey Vulture (*2016-42* **NA** 1–6).

Prairie Warbler: Most committee members felt the documentation did not go far enough in separating the individual from several other possible species (*2016-27* **NA** 2–5).



Figure 4. Bullock's Oriole, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, *1 May 2016. Photograph by Betty Lucas, Mason City, IA.*

RECORDS FROM THE PAST NOT ACCEPTED

Cook Inlet Gull (Glaucous-winged Gull X Herring Gull): Two first-round votes against acceptance of this record sent the review into a prolonged discussion on the duty of the committee regarding hybrids. Some members felt the committee should not, in principle, attempt judgments about birds of apparent mixed parentage. In spite of a majority of reviewers in both rounds supporting the identification offered, three second round reviewers felt that the complexities involved in understanding correctly a hybrid form without DNA evidence inherently causes reasonable doubt in the outcome (*2016-AB* **NA** 5–2, 4–3).

Common Raven: An extremely brief description of a 2004 encounter contained too few details to enable support beyond reasonable doubt for the identification made (*2016-AA* **NA** 0–7).

The recording and preserving of the Iowa ornithological record takes the responsible actions of people such as the 43 who provided documentations for the records contained in this report. Listed along with the number of documentations submitted in 2016, they are: Paul Roisen 11, Aaron Brees 8, Steve Dinsmore 6, Mark Brown 5, Linda Rudolph 4, Brandon Caswell 3, James Forde 3, Chris Edwards 2, Rita Goranson 2, Paul Hertzel 2, Betty Lucas 2, Clayton Will 2, Danny Akers 1, Reid Allen 1, John Bissell 1, Bill Blackburn 1, Luc Blanchette 1, Fawn Bowden 1, Melissa Cory 1, Mary DeWire 1, Ruth Fogler 1, Irene Fortune 1, Charles Fuller 1, Jay Gilliam 1, Tyler Harms 1, Doug Harr 1, Ramona Hayne 1,

Ann Johnson 1, Tom Johnson 1, Joe Jungers 1, Jeffrey Livingston 1, Jacob Newton 1, Nick Osness 1, Don Poggensee 1, James Scheib 1, Lee Schoenewe 1, Paul Skrade 1, Ron Stakland 1, Michael Stephens 1, Tommy Stone 1, Dennis Thompson 1, Bethany Thornton 1, Matt Wetrich 1. The IOU sincerely appreciates the efforts of these people in helping discover, preserve, and publish the record of Iowa's dynamic avian presence.

Many of the records submitted were accompanied by excellent photos, which is a recent and helpful trend in the culture of recording contemporary bird life. Even a snapshot or a recording picked up on a smartphone may provide just enough corroboration for acceptance. Some of the documentations were accompanied by marginal photos, which are still very helpful and make an important point of discussion when a review goes to a second round. A minority of documentations now have no photos, videos, or sound recordings to support them. These written documentations are more difficult to evaluate and, as a lower level of evidence, require considerable detail and logic to be accepted for use by future researchers. In these cases, the committee can only consider the picture painted in words describing what was seen and how it was identified. Therefore, reviewers place great value on written notes taken at the time of observation; that is, careful details of an event recorded prior to consultation with a field guide or colleagues after the bird is out of view. This level of detail is seldom seen in listserv posts or the routine comments submitted with seasonal field reports. A summary of size, structure, and behavior, along with a description of the event itself and a consideration of any similar species can make all the difference between an accepted report and a report not accepted. The committee only evaluates the evidence that is submitted. Its purpose is not to pass judgment on the validity of a particular sighting or the birding skills of a reporter but rather on that evidence provided.

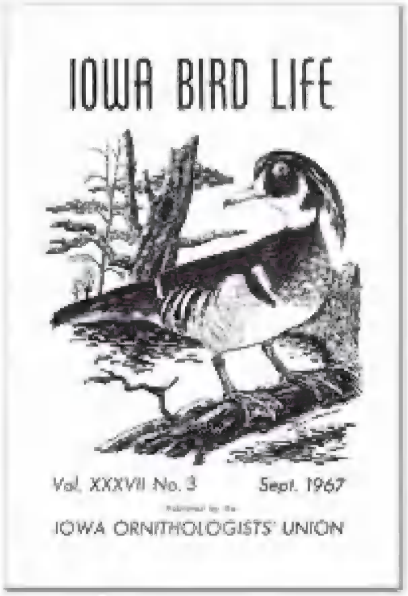
LITERATURE CITED

Cory, M., A. M. Johnson, and S. J. Dinsmore 2017. First Record of an Inca Dove for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 87:3–4.

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Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The September 1967 issue of Iowa Bird Life is one of the thinnest issues of the journal I can recall. With only 16 pages, including the front and back covers, it serves as a reminder that the journal is nearly always in need of more material and sometimes it is a struggle for the editor to find enough to fill an issue.

The lead article by Esther Copp describes the fall 1967 meeting at Springbrook State Park in Guthrie County. At the time, the fall meeting was a low-key event, lasting only two days and emphasizing socializing and birding with other members. A total of 64 people registered for the meeting. The field trips were in the park itself and nearby Sheeder Prairie. The bird list was a modest 57 species with only four warblers, two sparrows, and a handful of waterbirds reported. The program included several illustrated talks and a report on efforts in Sioux City to limit spraying of DDT to control Dutch Elm disease, which was decimating elm trees throughout Iowa.

The other main article was a report by Morgan Webb on attempts to educate city officials in Sioux City of the detrimental effects that DDT can have on various animals and to try to limit the spray program planned for the city. Apparently their efforts had some success.

The field reports by Woodward Brown covered May through July 1967 with numerous comments on various species that were either more or less numerous than in the past. Perhaps the most interesting find was the report of a Northern Saw-whet Owl near Iowa City on 11 July. The short notes include one by William Youngworth, one of the most prolific contributors of notes to the journal, on seeing his last Blue-headed Vireo that spring. Among the book reviews is one by Fred Pierce of the monumental The Shorebirds of North America, edited by Gardner Stout with general text by noted writer/naturalist Peter Matthiessen, species accounts by Ralph Palmer, and illustrations by Robert Verity Clem. The latter, some 32 stunning watercolor paintings of shorebirds, are what make this book stand out. His effective use of color and backgrounds provide a great overview of the beauty and grace of shorebirds.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (*oldcoot@iastate.edu*)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2018 Business Meeting

29 September 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall business meeting was held at Ventura Community Center in Ventura, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Attending were vice-president Pip Fisher, secretary Sharon Bauer, treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, and directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Curt Nelson, Eric Ollie, and Dennis Thompson, and members of the organization

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the 19 May 2018 business meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Ted Francis moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt gave a report of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet reports current through the end of August 2018 shows we are up $11,704.74 but due to timing of expenses and income year-to-year comparisons are difficult to make. Spring 2018 meeting and publication expenses have not been paid yet. Dues are up from last year, and no money was given for projects this year. We should be ahead of the budget at the end of the year.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported our current membership of 397 is down from 421 in 2017. Current numbers include fourteen Iowa Young Birders, who receive membership in the I.O.U. with their Iowa Young Birders membership. So it looks like we are down 24, but without the Iowa Young Birders, membership is down much more. We have 30 new members in 2018 and 76 non-renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee: *Iowa Bird Life* is back in publication with Karen Viste-Sparkman as the new editor and she is working diligently to get our publication back on schedule. She asks for articles and photos from the membership.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported the committee has reviewed 20 records so far this year. All but two were approved. There are seven records pending documentation, including five in August alone. He stresses the importance of reporting your birds to the I.O.U. and becoming part of the historical record.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr reported that I.O.U. merchandise website has been updated with a partnership with Corporate Casuals. You can now order your choice of clothing and other items embroidered with the I.O.U. logo.

Projects Committee: John Cecil reports his term is up on the Projects Committee. Many projects were funded before the spring meeting. There are no new projects to report for fall.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Candace Havely reported the birding records of Pete Wickham have been received and will be delivered to ISU. ISU will decide if these records will be incorporated into the I.O.U. records, or will be a separate archive.

Ann Johnson reported that the ISU Library is digitizing several records from the I.O.U. Some of these records include letters from members to the Field Report Editors for quarterly reports between 1962 and 2005. These letters contain bird sightings, but some also include personal information. The ISU Library will be contacting members to provide an opt-out opportunity for individuals who would prefer their letters not be available online.

Events Committee: Dennis Thompson reported they are planning a possible I.O.U.

field trip to Red Rock Reservoir in November. If anyone has suggestions for field trips, contact any committee member.

Communications Committee: John Bissell has agreed to join the Communications Committee. Along with the Listserv, other platforms for communications include Twitter, Facebook, and *The Bobolink*.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Pip Fisher reported on the successful spring I.O.U. meeting at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City. 105 registered participants and 185 species of birds were reported for the weekend. Expenses are still being tabulated, but are in line with projected amounts. Specifics will be presented at the Budget Meeting.

The spring I.O.U. meeting will be held at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 3–5 May 2019. Iowa City Bird Club and Karen Disbrow will be hosts. Nathan Pieplow will be the keynote speaker.

We need a location for the fall 2019 meeting. If you have any ideas, please contact any board member.

President Francis Moore reported the audit has not yet been completed. Kevin Murphy has agreed to perform the audit. If you would like to assist with the audit, please let Francis or Kevin know.

Pip Fisher reported that Steve Dinsmore would be contacted for deadline and completion of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Paul Roisen suggested that the committees go back to a written report for the board and business meetings.

Many committees will be looking for new members in May 2019. Contact President Francis Moore if you have any questions or if you would like to serve on any committee.

Bob and John Cecil have been coordinating the silent auction for many years at the I.O.U. meetings and will be taking a break. The silent auction has been a popular addition to our meetings and if you would be interested in organizing this fun event, please contact President Francis Moore.

Motion was made by Cecille Thompson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Stuart Sparkman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bauer, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

29 September 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall board meeting was held at Ventura Community Center in Ventura, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Attending were vice-president Pip Fisher; secretary Sharon Bauer; treasurer Mary Beth Hunt; and directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Curt Nelson, Eric Ollie, and Dennis Thompson. Attending as guests were Cecille Thompson, Paul Hertzel, Hank Zaletel, and Ann Johnson. Board member Kevin Murphy was absent.

President's Report: On line board action since last meeting: Proposal that Mike and Ramona Jacobson of Ottosen be recognized for their efforts to protect the Burrowing Owl that many Iowans observed in spring 2018. Proposal that they be a granted a one-year membership to the I.O.U. with the fee coming from the general fund. Online voting passed.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from

the 19 May 2018 Board of Directors meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Eric Ollie moved to approve the minutes. Second by Pip Fisher. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt gave a report of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet reports current through the end of August 2018 shows we are up $11,704.74 but due to timing of expenses and income year-to-year comparisons are difficult to make. Spring 2018 meeting and publication expenses have not been paid yet. Dues are up from last year, and nothing was given to projects this year. We should be ahead of the budget at the end of the year.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported our current membership of 397, down 24 from 2017. We have 30 new members and 76 non-renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Projects Committee: There are no current projects.

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported they are currently one member down and suggested restructuring the committee. No change was made. *Iowa Bird Life* is in publication with Karen Viste-Sparkman as the new editor.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported they reviewed 20 records from winter, spring, and summer. All but 2 were approved. There are seven pending documentations.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Hank Zaletel reported the birding records of Pete Wickham have been received and will be delivered to Iowa State University.

Events Committee: Dennis Thompson and Eric Ollie are planning an I.O.U. trip to Red Rock Reservoir in November.

Communications Committee: Linda Rudolph has resigned from managing *The Bobolink*. Paul Skrade will be filling the vacancy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on the progression of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Pip Fisher made a motion to set a deadline of 31 December 2018 for a response from Steve Dinsmore proposing a date for completion of the BBA, to be approved by the board. If there is no response from Steve by 31 December, I.O.U. funding for the project will be withdrawn. Motion was seconded by Eric Ollie. Motion carried. President Francis Moore will inform Steve Dinsmore by letter of the deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

ISU Library is digitizing several records from the I.O.U. Some of these records include letters from members to the Field Report Editors for quarterly reports between 1962 and 2005. These letters contain bird sightings, but some also include personal information. The ISU Library is requesting a membership mailing list to contact our members to provide an opt-out opportunity for individuals who would prefer their letters not be available online. Pip Fisher made a motion to provide the ISU Library with an I.O.U. membership mailing list. Mary Beth Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Pip Fisher reported on the successful spring I.O.U. meeting at Briar Cliff College. Numbers are still being tabulated, but expenses are in line with projected amounts. Specifics will be presented at the Budget Meeting.

The spring I.O.U. meeting will be held at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 3–5 May 2019. Nathan Pieplow will be the keynote speaker. His fee will be $500 plus expenses.

Budget meeting date has not been set, but will probably be in January 2019. President Francis Moore and Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt will set the date.

Motion was made by Mary Beth Hunt to adjourn the meeting, second by Eric Ollie. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bauer, Secretary

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3],October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.: Spring: 3–5 May 2019, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park.

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Prairie Warbler, Stephens SF, *Monroe,* 15 May 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Western Tanager, Ames, *Story*, 14 May 2017. Photograph by Eric Ollie, Ames, IA.

LAYOUT: Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA
PRINTER: Centennial Printing, Louisville, CO



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IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Fall 2017 . Volume 87 . Number 4

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

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Secretary: *Rex Rundquist* (2018), 3131 Norman Dr, Sioux City, IA 51104 (rrundquist@aol.com)
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DIRECTORS: *Tyler Harms* (2018), *Candace Havely* (2018), *Eric Ollie* (2018), *Diane Detlinger* (2019), *Kevin Murphy* (2019).

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Spring (Mar, Apr, May; deadline 3 June): *Tyler M. Harms* 1517 Stafford Ave, Ames, IA 50010 (tyharms@gmail.com)
Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *Jim Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Paul Hertzel*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS:
Library/Historical: *Hank Zaletel* (2018), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net); *Candace Havely* (2020)
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Message from the IOU Publications Committee

Ann Johnson, Chair

As everyone is keenly aware, publication of *Iowa Bird Life* has fallen more than a year behind schedule. Our journal is our history but we want to bring you news while it is still fresh. We believe we have a strong team assembled with Karen Viste-Sparkman as Editor, Cecille Thompson as Photo Editor, and Paul Hertzel as Design/Layout. They need your help to produce a quality publication with regularity because it is the members who are the authors. Short notes on interesting observations or behaviors are easy to write and are interesting to others. Is your community involved in a bird-related project? Tell us about it. Do you have a favorite birding location that others might enjoy? Share your knowledge of where to go. We'll even provide help with maps as necessary. Of course longer articles about research are always welcome as are good quality photos of Iowa's birds. That center spread of color photos is not sustainable without contributors. Details on submitting articles and photos may be found at http://iowabirds.org/IOU/IBL.aspx.

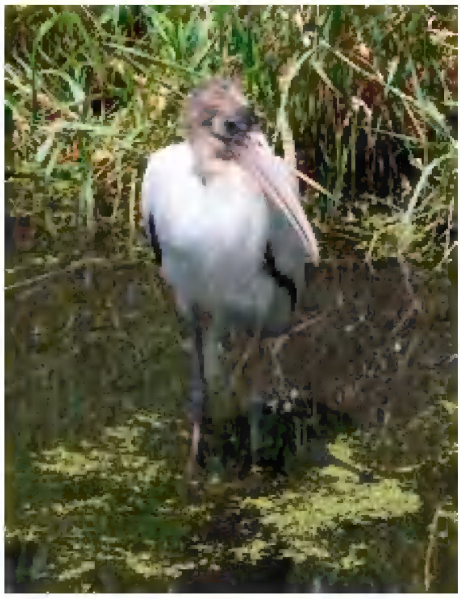
In order to get us back on track with our publication dates, the publications committee is assuming responsibility to get the five late issues done and mailed to you over the course of the next few months. These will necessarily be smaller issues and will be coming to you at irregular times interspersed with the most current journals. Enjoy them when they arrive and hopefully by this time next year we will be back to our regularly-scheduled programming.



Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) in Greene County

Douglas C. Harr

On the warm summer late afternoon of 29 June 2017, I received a phone call from Dan Towers, long-time Director of the Greene County Conservation Board. Dan reported that he had viewed what he was sure was probably a Wood Stork at Dunbar Slough Wildlife Management Area (WMA), about 4 miles west-southwest of Scranton, IA, near the Carroll County line. He wanted to make sure identification of such a rare species could be verified by other nearby experienced birders he knew. Dan had first left a message for local IOU member Matt Wetrich, from Jefferson, then also phoned me in hopes of visiting with someone who could quickly go view the bird. I agreed and immediately headed for Dunbar Slough, about a half-hour drive from home.



Wood Stork, Dunbar Sl WMA, Greene, *29 June 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Dan reported the Wood Stork had been seen wading in a roadside ditch on the north side of 250th Street (Co. Hwy. E-53), just below a water control structure on a small restored marsh near the east edge of Dunbar Slough WMA. As I approached the site, Dan was parked in his county truck just east of where he'd first spotted the bird. I pulled alongside and Dan directed me to drive about 50 yards ahead, then to look down into the flooded ditch. It took a couple of attempted views—with Dan signaling from his truck to show me precisely where to look—before I spotted the bird. It surprised me by being approximately 15 feet (closer than I'd expected) from the passenger side of my car, standing in the ditch water with no evident concern about a vehicle being so close. This was very obviously a juvenile Wood Stork, and I took many photos out my car window, not getting out of the vehicle in hopes of keeping the stork in place.

A Wood Stork is unlikely to be mistaken for any other species by anyone with even just an amateur level of birding experience. The individual seen here at Dunbar Slough was approximately 36-40 inches in height, body basically all-white with black flight and tail feathers. Bill was large, long, and decurved, with pinkish-yellow bill color indicating first-year age (adult bill would be blackish). Additionally, the neck and top of head were covered with somewhat grayish-brown downy feathers, again

indicating juvenile (adult head would be bald and gray-black colored). Its long legs were more a pinkish-gray than an adult's black legs with pink feet.

After first observing this Wood Stork, I decided not to publicly report it via the Iowa Bird Listserv. My concern was that because of the bird's location immediately adjacent to a county highway, it might quickly be frightened away if large numbers of birders arrived to view it, got out of vehicles and attempted even more close-up photography. But with Dunbar Slough being a birding hot-spot for many central Iowa birders, within a couple of days others had spotted it and word spread quickly. Many more people managed to view and photograph the stork, almost always in about the same location or another nearby spot, and at least once even seen roosting in a tree at a nearby farmstead. The bird managed to continue remaining in this area until last seen on 18 July, 20 days of continuous observation. It was most often viewed while feeding in shallow waters of the roadside ditch and adjacent wetlands, catching its typical preferred food of fish, frogs, insects, or other aquatic organisms.

Primary U.S. nesting range for Wood Storks is the state of Florida, plus near-coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina. Preferred habitat is southern hardwood swamps, which provide for roosting and nesting in areas of warm year-round climate. Therefore, finding this species in Iowa's open farm country is certainly a rarity. However, during post-nesting season, Wood Storks, especially juveniles, sometimes tend to wander north, with sightings reported as far as Massachusetts, Colorado, and even British Columbia (American Ornithologists' Union 1998).

What might have caused this individual to appear in central Iowa? Probably it was just an example of post-nesting season wandering. But it's also possible that it could have been blown northward by a tropical storm with strong south winds on the Gulf Coast. Although not terribly strong, Tropical Storm Cindy hit the Louisiana coast on 20 June, 2017, only nine days before discovery of the Wood Stork in Greene County. Such weather in the past has caused species such as Magnificent Frigatebirds, Sooty Terns, and other coastal species to turn up north of the Gulf Coast states (James et al. 2010).

Although I had previously viewed multiple Wood Storks in South Florida, this was a first for my Iowa species list. Two others had been digitally reported in Iowa since 2000, but only one was accepted by the IOU Records Committee. That stork was viewed and photographed at Jester Park, on the west side of Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County in 2007.

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Field Reports—Summer 2017

James J. Dinsmore

Both June and July were fairly warm and dry, but other than several 100 plus degree days in July, there was nothing that would make this summer stand out as unusual in the weather department. No new species or nesting species for Iowa were found this summer. Probably the biggest news was Iowa's third Wood Stork, a bird that obligingly stayed around for a number of days.



James J. Dinsmore

WEATHER

June was warm and relatively dry. Temperatures averaged 71.2 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal and the 23rd warmest June in 145 years of records. It was especially warm in the first half of the month when temperatures were in the 90s somewhere in Iowa almost daily but was generally much cooler the rest of the month. The highest temperature was 97 degrees at Little Sioux, Lamoni, and Little Sioux on 13, 15, and 21 June respectively. The lowest temperature was 40 degrees in Cresco, Elkader, and Grinnell on 1 June and Battle Creek and Grinnell on 27 June.

June rainfall averaged 3.53 inches, 1.49 inches below average, the 37th driest June on record, and the driest since 2012. It was very dry through 12 June with a statewide average of only 0.09 inches of rain, well below the usual 2.47 inches that falls during that period. After that, rainfall was more frequent but totals were below average for most of the southwestern two-thirds of Iowa. In southeastern Iowa, Donnellson, Fairfield, and Ottumwa all had less than one inch of rain, the third driest June on record for Donnellson and Ottumwa and the fifth driest for Fairfield. In general, northeastern and north-central Iowa were the wettest areas of the state and New Hampton was the wettest station with 9.79 inches of rain. There were the usual severe thunderstorms scattered across the state with the most extreme weather on 28 June with at least 13 tornadoes reported. The most severe damage was at Prairieburg in Linn County.

July temperatures averaged 74.9 degrees, 1.3 degrees above normal and the 44th warmest July on record. It was especially hot during the third week of July when it reached 101 degrees in Ottumwa on 20 July and 101 the next day at the Des Moines airport. These were Iowa's hottest days since it reached 102 degrees in Donnellson and Keokuk on 9 September 2013. Osceola had 19 days with a temperature of 90 degrees or more. The only temperature below 50 degrees was 46 degrees on 1 July at Sheldon.

July rainfall averaged 3.19 inches, 1.31 inches below normal and about half of the July average for 2016. It was the 51st driest July in 145 years of records. The southwestern two-thirds of Iowa continued the drought pattern that started in June. Most counties in that area had less than 3 inches of rain, and a number had less than an inch with 0.41 inches in Pocahontas the least. Northeastern Iowa had the most rainfall with 13.88 inches at Guttenberg the most and the greatest monthly total for any month for that station. Extremely heavy rain fell on 11 July with 6.35 inches falling on Garber in Clayton County and on 21 July from Charles City to Dubuque and the Quad Cities with 9.52 inches at Ionia in Chickasaw County.

BIRDS OF SUMMER

Habitat Conditions

It was a rather average summer weather-wise with little exceptional weather, and habitat conditions probably were relatively good for most nesting species. There was only one burst of tornado activity in late June and some heavy rain and localized flooding in northeastern Iowa in July. The most severe event was a drought starting in June and continuing through July, extending from northwestern to southeastern Iowa. By late July parts of south-central Iowa were experiencing a severe drought but it probably had little effect on nesting success for most species.

With most of Iowa's land being privately owned, some of the best ways for providing habitat for birds come from federal programs that include conservation measures. In general, funding for those programs has declined steadily in recent years. Little changed in 2017 but with a new federal Farm Bill scheduled to be written in 2018, more attention is being given to getting increased funding for conservation programs like CRP after years of decline.

On the state level, Iowa's 23rd Bird Conservation Area (BCA), the Indian Bluffs/Picture Rocks BCA was dedicated in May. This 25,500-acre area is located near Monticello in Jones County and centered around the Maquoketa River and nearby areas. It consists of about 9,500 acres of forested land and 6,800 acres of grassland, providing some excellent savanna and woodland habitat. As is typical of BCAs, most of the land is privately owned and only about 3,200 acres are in public ownership. Some of the typical species of the area include Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Wood Thrush, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Red-headed Woodpecker.

The Kellerton Grassland BCA in southern Iowa recently was designated as a Globally Important Bird Area (GIBA) by BirdLife International and the National Audubon Society. Although the area is well known for the Greater Prairie-Chickens that have been introduced there, the GIBA designation was based on the significant population of Henslow's Sparrows, an Iowa Threatened species that is found there. In recent years Bruce Ehresman of the Iowa DNR has documented more than 300 Henslow's Sparrow territories on the area. This is the second Iowa area to receive GIBA designation. The Effigy Mounds/Yellow River Forest IBA received such designation in 2013 in recognition of its significant population of Cerulean Warblers.

Breeding Species

Several interesting nesting birds were reported this summer. Notable among the waterfowl were broods of Mute Swan, Redhead, and Ring-necked Duck. Red-necked Grebe broods were found at two sites, Western Grebes at one, and Common Gallinule at five. I received more reports of Soras and Virginia Rails than in any previous year. Sandhill Cranes had another good year with nesting reported in Linn County. With the removal of suitable nesting habitat at MidAmerican ponds, no Piping Plovers were reported there but Least Terns were found nesting elsewhere. For Piping Plovers it was only the second summer in the 35 summers since they were first found nesting there in 1983 that none were reported in Iowa. Black Tern nesting activity was reported from several sites including active nests at one. Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans again nested on the Clinton spoil islands and cormorants also nested in Emmet County. Barn Owls had a record-setting year with the most nests ever reported, and Ospreys had a good nesting year. More Loggerhead Shrikes were reported than in most recent years, suggesting some optimism. Likewise, counts of Henslow's Sparrows were amazingly high at two sites and suggest that the species is either doing very well or has just been overlooked.

Range Changes

As has been typical in recent years, a few species have shown evidence of range changes, some of them continuing for several years. Probably the most striking is the apparent two-pronged expansion by Blue Grosbeaks with birds presumably expanding their range both north and west from southeastern Iowa and eastward from their long-time stronghold in western Iowa. Northern Bobwhite, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer Tanager all had good years with some evidence of northward movement for all four.

Migrants

As is usual, spring migration extended into June for a few species. These included several shorebirds; Black Tern; Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, Alder, and Least flycatchers; Swainson's Thrush; and Black-and-white, Tennessee, Mourning, Chestnut-sided, and Canada warblers. Southbound migration began in mid-June with the arrival of several species of shorebirds which were followed by Franklin's and Ring-billed gulls, Black and Forster's terns, and American White Pelicans. No early passerines were reported. The shorebird hotspot was Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge where a drawdown of one of the large pools resulted in large expanses of mudflats and thousands of shorebirds.

Unusual Species

Only one Accidental species, Wood Stork, and two Casual species, King Rail and Prairie Warbler, were found. Other species that are unusual in summer, which were found this year included Ross's Goose, Common Merganser, Horned Grebe, Eared

Grebe, White-winged Dove, Black-necked Stilt, Bonaparte's Gull, Snowy Egret, Swainson's Hawk, Brown Creeper, Mourning Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Canada Warbler.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **BCA** = bird conservation area, **BBS** = breeding bird survey, **Croton** = Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest (ditto Donnellson and Farmington units), **F** = forest, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **Lucas** = Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest (ditto Thousand Acre and Whitebreast units), **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = national monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **Sl** = slough, **SF** = state forest, **SP** = state park, **S Pre** = state preserve, **Upper Miss NWR** = Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area, **yg** = young.

Snow Goose: All: 11 on 5, 7 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB, BC), one 8 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), one 6 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF), and one 14 Jul near Walcott *Scott* (RS).

Ross's Goose: All: one 7 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB, BC-ph).

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: one 23 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 2 on 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

Mute Swan: A pair at Littlefield P *Audubon* had 2 yg 6 Jul (RIA, PHA).

Trumpeter Swan: A record 54 nest attempts were reported in 2017. Most were in n-cent and e-cent Iowa and only two were south of I-80 (Iowa DNR).

Northern Shoveler: All: one 3 Jun at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (AB), 4 on 8 Jun at Dickcissel WPA *Kossuth* (DG), 3 on 14 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (DS), 7 on 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JJ), 2 on 17 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (JJ), one male 20 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 2 males 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Gadwall: All: 2 on 2 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB), 2 on 6, 14 Jun at Crystal Hills WA *Hancock* (DG, DS), one 8 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF), 2 on 11, 14 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK, DS), 2 males 21 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 17 on 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (AB), and one 27 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM).

American Wigeon: All: 3 on 21 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Northern Pintail: All: 2 on 3 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), one there 10 Jun (AB), one 11 Jun at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (AB), 5 on 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, AB, KRe), one 23 Jun at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (DE), one 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk), and one 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

Green-winged Teal: Reports included 2 on 5 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 2 on 11 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kos-*

suth (MCK), one 11 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 on 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JJ), one 23 Jun at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (DE), one 24 Jun and 3 on 7 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF), and one 12 Jul near Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF).

Canvasback: All: singles 5 Jun at Cedar L *Linn* (JF) and 2 Jul at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Redhead: Most reports were from Trumbull L *Clay* with 173 on 17 Jun, 44 on 1 Jul (JJ), and a brood there 1 Jul (LAS). Other reports were 4 on 1 Jun near West Swan L *Emmet* (MP), 4 on 4 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (RJV), one 4 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (JG), 12 on 25 Jun at Dewey's Pasture *Clay* (DKi, MG), 7 on 3 Jul at Marble L *Dickinson* (RJV), and 2 on 9 Jul at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (RJV).

Ring-necked Duck: All: 3 on 4 Jun near Rock Valley *Sioux* (JJ), up to 8 from 8 Jun–3 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JJ, AB), 2 on 25 Jun at Mud L *Clay* (DKi, MG), one 6 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF), one summered at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD), and a brood 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk).

Lesser Scaup: From 1–4 in *Carroll*, *Clay*, *Floyd*, *Hamilton*, *Jackson*, *Linn*, and *Pocahontas* (m.ob., eBird), about typical for summer.

Hooded Merganser: Broods were noted in *Dallas*, *Hancock*, *Johnson*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, and *Tama*, (AB, DAk, LQ, HZ, JF, eBird).

Common Merganser: All: one 15 Jun at Banner Flats WA *Warren* (AMJ).

Ruddy Duck: Up to 11 were found in *Buena Vista*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Hancock*, *Pocahontas*, and *Worth* (RJV, DE, ZM, KRe) in northern Iowa where expected. High counts were 18 on 11 Jun at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 143 on 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS). Southernmost were 2 on 7 Jun at Forney L *Fremont* (WRS). Others were found in *Carroll* (LGR), *Dallas* (AB), and *Tama* (JF).

Northern Bobwhite: It was a good year for bobwhite. Counts of 27 on a 2 Jun BBS in *Appanoose* and *Davis* (TNJ) and 26 on a 5 Jun BBS in *Lucas*, *Monroe*, and *Appanoose* (TNJ) were good totals, even for southern Iowa. The northernmost birds were in *Buena Vista* (MA) and *Buchanan* (WV) with birds found in 29 other counties mainly in the southern third of Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

Gray Partridge: Mostly one or 2 in their usual range in *Black Hawk*, *Boone*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Humboldt*, *Kossuth*, *Polk*, *Sioux*, *Story*, and *Winneshiek* (m.ob., eBird).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Counts of 25 on a 2 Jun BBS in *Appanoose* and *Davis* (TNJ) and 31 on 5 Jun in *Lucas*, *Monroe*, and *Appanoose* (TNJ) were good totals for southern Iowa.

Pied-billed Grebe: Reports came from 28 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa but south to *Fremont* and *Wapello* (m.ob., eBird). Most: 34 including yg 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk) and 29 including yg 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (AB).

Horned Grebe: All: one 1 Jun, 11 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP, PR).

Red-necked Grebe: All: one 1 Jun at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS), 2 on 1 Jun at Virgin L *Palo Alto* (RJV), one 1 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP), 3 on 9 Jul at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (RJV), 3 on 17 Jun and 2 on 24, 29 Jun at Trumbull L

Clay (JJ, AB, JLF) and 3 ads and one yg there 1 Jul (LAS, JJ), one 17 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (RJV), 5 ads and 2 broods with 2 yg each 8 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD) and 2 juv there 18 Jul (RGo, BVL).

Eared Grebe: All: 2 on 1 Jun at Virgin L *Palo Alto* (RJV) and one 10 Jun at Ingham-High L *Emmet* (SJD).

Western Grebe: All: 3 ads 1 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP), one 1–4 Jun at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TGS, JLF, m.ob.), one 16 Jun at Sunken Grove L *Pocahontas* (ZM), 3 on 17, 25 Jun (JJ, DKi, MG) and 4 on 29 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JLF), and 5 ads and 2 yg 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* and 5 ads and 7 yg there 31 Jul (LAS). It has nested in Iowa five of the last 10 summers.

White-winged Dove: All: one 12 Jun in Bronson *Woodbury* (TL).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Mostly sightings of one or 2 birds throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). There were a total of 280 reports on eBird.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Mostly singles from 14 counties scattered throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). The 26 reports on eBird was far fewer than the total for Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Chuck-will's-widow: All: one 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk) and one or 2 on 29 Jun–17 Jul near the Lucas Unit *Lucas* (m.ob., eBird).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: High counts were 10 on 1 Jun at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (EP) and 12 on 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk), 7 on 21 Jun in Whitebreast Unit *Lucas* (BSc), 6 on 10 Jul near Broken Kettle Grassland *Plymouth* (GVL), and 5 on 17 Jul at the Lucas Unit *Lucas* (TMH). Up to 7 were found in *Allamakee*, *Appanoose*, *Lucas*, *Monona*, *Plymouth*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob., eBird).

KING RAIL: All: one 5 Jun near Grand River WA *Ringgold* (*Timothy Swartz).

Virginia Rail: More reports than usual. Systematic surveys located mostly singles but as many as 9 on 16 sites in *Calhoun*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Pocahontas*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (RJV). Others included 2 on 2 Jun at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk), an ad and 2 yg 27 Jun at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), one 1 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MHB, BC), 5 on 1 Jul at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (DKi, MG), 2 on 8 Jul at Anderson L *Hamilton* (EO), one 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk), an ad and 3 yg 13 Jul in *Floyd* (RGo), one 20 Jul at Princeton M *Scott* (KJM), and 2 on 31 Jul at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Sora: Mostly one or 2 but as many as 6 were found on 10 sites in *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Palo Alto*, *Pocahontas*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (RJV). Elsewhere, one or 2 were found in *Black Hawk*, *Bremer*, *Dubuque*, *Fremont*, *Jackson*, *Kossuth*, *Linn*, *Madison*, *Scott*, and *Story* (m.ob., eBird).

Common Gallinule: More reports than usual. Reports of breeding were 2 ads and 7 yg 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (AB), 4 ads and 16 yg 9 Jul at Center Point M *Linn* (JF), 2 ads and 7 yg 14 Jul at Errington M *Polk* (RLC), as many as 21 including 5 broods 17–29 Jul at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (JL, LGR, TM, m.ob., eBird), and a brood 10 Jul and one ad and 6 yg 18 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (RJV, BVL, RGo). Up to 3 were found at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF), Princeton M *Scott* (KJM), Union Hills WPA *Cerro*

Gordo (RGo, BVL), Forney L *Fremont* (WRS, SQ), Lewis Bottoms *Linn* (KRa, CR), and by RJV at Jemmerson Sl, Marble L, and West Hottes L in *Dickinson*, Lizard L *Pocahontas*, Rice L *Worth*, and Ventura M *Cerro Gordo*.

American Coot: Most reports were from northern Iowa. Southernmost reports included 4 on 24 Jun at Willow Sl *Mills* (JG) and 9 on 7 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (WRS). High counts were 127 including yg 24 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (AB), and 44 including fledged yg 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk)

Sandhill Crane: Reports of breeding included adults with one colt 5 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one colt 13 Jun at Center Point Wetland *Linn* (JF), 2 colts 25 Jun at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (AB), 2 colts 26 Jun, 31 Jul at Ideal M *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RGo), 2 colts 30 Jun at 280th St wetland *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), one colt 1 Jul at Deweys Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS), one colt 2 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), one colt 2 Jul at Lower Morse Lake WA *Wright* (SJD), and 2 colts 16 Jul near Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (AB). Other sightings of interest were 3 ads 1 Jun at Rush L *Palo Alto* (MP), 21 on 24 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (TM), and 18 ads 1 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (BSc, LGR).

Black-necked Stilt: All: one 20 Jun at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (TJ Herrickph, *fide* SJD).

American Avocet: All: one 7 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 2 on 13 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 2 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Black-bellied Plover: One ad 18 Jun at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, ties third latest) and one 20 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF-details, record latest) were rare for mid-June.

American Golden-Plover: Last: one 7 Jun near Bayard *Greene* (Karl Jungbluth). First southbound: one 13 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 11 on 2 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). First: one 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk) and one 15 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). Most: 60 on 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

Killdeer: Most: 409 on 7 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* 7 Jul (SJD), 615 on 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD), and 120 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR).

Upland Sandpiper: Up to 6 were seen in 23 counties in all but the easternmost parts of Iowa (m.ob., eBird). BBS routes in *Dallas* (6 birds, JB) and *Hancock* and *Kossuth* (18 birds, TMH) had more than usual.

Hudsonian Godwit: All: one 1 Jun in *Floyd* (RGo) was a late migrant. This species has been found in Iowa six of the last 10 summers.

Marbled Godwit: All: one 19 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF, second earliest). It has been found in Iowa six of the last eight summers.

Ruddy Turnstone: All: one 22 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BC).

Stilt Sandpiper: First: one 7 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) and 4 on 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk). Most: 24 on 23 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JM).

Sanderling: All: one ad 16 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph, record latest) and 6 on 24 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 7 on 12 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk), 2 on 18 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 4 on 28 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (PR).

Least Sandpiper: Last: one 4 Jun near Norwalk *Warren* (JG). One 22 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) is hard to categorize. First: 10 on 28 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF). Most: 150 on 7 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 17 Jun at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (AB), 3 on 17 Jun at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 2 on 24 Jun at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Most: 95 on 16 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 3 on 11 Jul at Blue Grass sod farm *Linn* (JLF, second earliest). All others were in late July including 3 on 24 Jul at Blue Grass sod farm *Linn* (JF), one 23 Jul (MCK, third earliest) and 2 on 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD), and one 27 Jul at Shattuck Sod Farm *Dallas* (DTh).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: singles 1 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB) and 4 Jun near Norwalk *Warren* (JG). First: singles 24 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) and Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). Most: 4033 on 26 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Numerous reports in early June including 34 on 4 Jun near Norwalk *Warren* (JG) and 33 on 5 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (BC) dwindling to one 17 Jun at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (LAS, JJ), and 3 on 18 Jun at Runnells WA *Polk* (SJD). First: 8 on 3 Jul near Norwalk *Warren* (JG) and one 3 Jul in *Woodbury* (DKi, MG).

Western Sandpiper: All: singles 22 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BC) and 25 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (RGo).

Short-billed Dowitcher: One 6 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) was very early. Next earliest: 3 on 22 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DR, MRol, et al., eBird). Most: 17 on 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

American Woodcock: All: one 8 Jun and 17 Jul, and 2 on 27 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa* (KJM) and one 5 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (DBr).

Wilson's Snipe: All: one winnowing 17 Jun at Freda Haffner Kettlehole *Dickinson* (LAS), and singles 17 Jun at Horseshoe Bend RA *Dickinson* (JJ), 1 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JJ), 18 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 27 Jul at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), and 27 Jul at Burrows Pond *Sac* (TMH).

Spotted Sandpiper: Reported from 34 counties scattered across Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 11 on 28 Jul near Sioux City *Woodbury* (PR).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: one 1 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (MHB, BC), one 3 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (TMH),



Spotted Sandpiper, Hawkeye WA Johnson, *1 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

and 3 on 6 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF). Most: 21 on 14 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: one 20 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (KRe), one 21 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 7 on 22 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). Most: ca 500 on 23 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK).

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 2 on 2 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and one 2 Jun at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk). First: singles 27 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (DAk) and 29 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Wilson's Phalarope: Last: 4 on 2 Jun near Salix *Woodbury* (EP) and one 6 Jun at Plover WPA *Pocahontas* (Erich Gilbert *fide* SJD). One 19, 22 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BC) was the first southbound bird. One 2 Jul at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (JM), and one 25 Jul and 3 on 30 Jul at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (RGo, MCK) may have nested or were migrants.

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 4 ads 30 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). It has been found in Iowa six of the last seven summers.

Bonaparte's Gull: All: one ad 9 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Franklin's Gull: The usual summer stragglers included 4 on 18 Jun at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (DTh), one 19 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (LGR, LQ), one 25 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT), and 7 on 13 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). The 28 on 8 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG) and 100 there 17 Jul (TMH) were among the first southbound birds.

Ring-billed Gull: The 80 on 14 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (KRe) and 70 on 19 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (LGR) probably included birds from nearby colonies. Elsewhere, many singles and small groups were found throughout Iowa during June and July. The 320 on 8 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG) was the first large group of migrants reported.

Herring Gull: All: one first cycle 10 Jun, 1, 9 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, SJD).

Least Tern: All: 3 on 18 Jun at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (DTh), 5 there on 24 Jun (JG), and 2 on 29 Jun (JLF), one 20 Jun in *Mills* (CF), one 24 Jun at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), one 1 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 2 on 3 Jul at dairy ponds *Woodbury* (MG, DKi). The only report of nesting was of one or 2 pairs and a depredated nest in late Jul at Deer Island WA *Harrison* (Jon Christensen *fide* SJD).

Caspian Tern: All: one 5 Jun at Cedar L *Linn* (JF), one 6 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 5 on 19 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (LGR, LQ), 5 on 21 Jun on Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM), one 12 Jul at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (BC), one 14 Jul at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (GLV), one 16 Jul and 2 on 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one 21 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MA), 5 on 26 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and one 28 Jul in *Dubuque* (TM).

Black Tern: The 25 on 1 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (MP) were late migrants. Eight nests were found 15 Jun at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (DS). Birds in potential nesting areas included 6 on 15 Jun at Rice L *Winnebago* (DS), an ad with food 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS) and ads feeding yg there 2 Aug (RJV), 5 on 3 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (TMH), and 11 there

12 Jul (DAk). The 16 on 21 Jul at New L *Woodbury* (GLV) were southbound.

Common Tern: All: 2 on 2 Jun at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk), one 25 Jun at Mud L WA *Clay* (MG, DKi-details), and 4 on 1 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-details).

Forster's Tern: No definitive reports of nesting but 7 on 2 Jun at Rush L *Osceola* (DAk), 16 on 24 Jun and an ad with food 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (AB, LAS), and 2 on 3 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (TMH) were at sites where they could nest. One 8 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG) and 7 on 21 Jul at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (GLV) were migrants.

Common Loon: All: one 2, 5 Jun, 17 Jul at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BC, JF, BSc, LGR), 3 on 5 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (DBa), and singles 22 Jun–27 Jul at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) and 31 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

WOOD STORK: One juv 29 Jun–15 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (*DCH-ph, *TMH-ph, SJD-ph., *AB-ph, *JB, m.ob.) constitutes Iowa's third record and the first since 2007.



Wood Stork, Dunbar Slough Greene, *30 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Rose, Mason City, IA.*

Double-crested Cormorant: Two active colonies: Ingham-High lakes *Emmet* had 275+ ads and many nests 10 Jun (SJD) and the *Clinton* spoil island colony was active for the 11th consecutive year (*fide* SJD). The 384 counted 19 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (LGR) probably were mostly birds from the *Clinton* colony. Elsewhere, there were numerous reports of individuals or small groups from throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

American White Pelican: Pelicans nested at the *Clinton* spoil islands for the 11th consecutive year (*fide* SJD). Flocks of 200 or more at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR, LQ), Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), Dewey's Pasture *Clay* (JJ), and Little Swan L *Dickinson* (JJ) in June and many reports of smaller groups in June and early July indicate that many pelicans summer in Iowa. The first large flock of southbound birds was of ca 1000 on 17 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TMH).

American Bittern: All: one 1 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), one 4 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (RJV), one 12 Jun at Lizard L *Pocahontas* (RJV), 1–3 on 17 Jun–1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JJ, AB, JLF), and one 25 Jun near Graettinger *Emmet* (DKi, MG).

Least Bittern: Most reports from the northern half of Iowa; *Allamakee*, *Black Hawk*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Clay*, *Dallas*, *Dickinson*, *Emmet*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Palo Alto*, *Pocahontas*, *Scott*, *Story*, *Warren*, *Winnebago*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (RJV, m.ob., eBird). Most: 6 on 17 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (RJV). Singles 26, 30 Jul at Waubonsie Access *Fremont* (AR, WRS) were the southernmost reports.

Great Egret: Up to 50 were found in

26 counties mostly in the eastern half of Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 85 on 17 Jul at, Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (JL).

Snowy Egret: One 21 Jun west of junction of hwys 2 and 59 in *Fremont* (CF).

Cattle Egret: All: one 5 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (DBr).

Green Heron: Mostly singles were found in 40 counties throughout Iowa (DAk, TMH, GLV, eBird).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: All: one 4 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (JG), one 12 Jun at Lizard L *Pocahontas* (RJV), one 17 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS, JJ), 2 on 29 Jun at Waterloo *Black Hawk* (CL), 4 on 30 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (RLC), 2 on 3 Jul at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (TMH), and one 7 Jul at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: an ad and juv 27 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO, HZ, DAk, SJD, EO) and a juv 16, 18 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO, DCH, AN, TMH).

Turkey Vulture: Many reports. A nest with 2 yg was in a cattle shed near Searsboro *Poweshiek* 15 Jul (DK). Most: 231 on 8 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Osprey: A good year with 28 nest attempts, 23 of which were successful and produced 47 yg. These totals are up from the 22 successful nests and 42 yg produced in 2016. Concentrations of nests were around Des Moines, Spirit Lake, and Iowa City/Cedar Rapids (Iowa DNR).

Mississippi Kite: A pair in June in Grinnell *Poweshiek* was seen copulating 10 Jun but no nest was found (KSa-ph). Other reports were from the two usual sites: one ad 2, 30 Jun, 7 Jul and 3 ads 3 Jun in Ottumwa *Wapello* (JLF, BSc, MP, LGR), and one 7 Jun, 23 Jul in West Des Moines *Polk* (AB, RJT).

Bald Eagle: Eagles continue to do well in Iowa with more than 400 active territories. New nests continue to be found yearly (Iowa DNR).

Northern Harrier: Reports of a female 17 Jun and a male 1 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), 2 on 24 Jun and one 29 Jun at Hanlontown Sl *Worth* (AB, CJF), and a male and female 31 Jul at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS) were at sites with good potential for nesting. Elsewhere, singles were in *Black Hawk*, *Dallas*, *Hancock*, *Iowa*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Linn*, *Polk*, *Sioux*, and *Van Buren* (JF, DTh, AB, eBird-m.ob.).

Cooper's Hawk: Reported from 26 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird) including a nest in Ankeny *Polk* that fledged 2 yg (DK).

Red-shouldered Hawk: About 31 reports (more than usual) from *Allamakee*, *Black Hawk*, *Bremer*, *Clayton*, *Delaware*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Marshall*, *Polk*, and *Story*, nearly all of single birds and in the eastern half of Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

Broad-winged Hawk: All: singles 1 Jun in *Monroe* (JJ), 4 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 24 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE), 26 Jun at Swiss Valley Nat Pre *Dubuque* (TMH), 27 Jun in Nine Eagles SP *Decatur* (WRS, SS), 13 Jun, 4 Jul in Ames *Story* (EO, DAk), and 7 Jul in Ottumwa *Wapello* (MP).

Swainson's Hawk: All: one 26 Jun in Urbandale *Polk* (DAk-details). This species has been found in Iowa seven of the last eight summers.

Barn Owl: Through the end of July, 22 Barn Owl nests had been documented in 15 counties (*Adams*, *Appanoose*-2 nests, *Cass*, *Decatur*, *Franklin*, *Lee*-2 nests, *Marion*, *Monroe*, *Page*, *Ringgold*-4 nests, *Taylor*-3 nests, *Union*, *Van Buren*, *Warren*, and *Wayne*). Additional Barn Owls were reported in *Audubon*, *Clay*, *Dubuque*, *Fremont*, *Guthrie*, *Lucas*, *Palo Alto*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Woodbury*, some of which may too have been nesting. The 22 nests is the most ever recorded, eclipsing the 17 nests found in 2016 (BEh).

Barred Owl: The only report from Iowa's nine northwestern-most counties was one 25 Jun in the Little Sioux R Valley *Cherokee* (DBi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: High count: 44 on 27 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: A pair feeding yg 18 Jun at Gitchie Manitou S Pre *Lyon* (DAk) and singles 4 Jun near Rock Valley and Inwood in *Lyon* and 24 Jun near Larchwood *Lyon* (JJ) were in northwestern Iowa where this species is rare.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Numerous reports in *Allamakee* with 26 on 7 Jul near Lansing (CL, m.ob.) the most. Others along the Mississippi R were in *Clayton* (BSc, LGR), *Jackson* (TM), *Scott* (KJM, MR), and south to 8 found 8, 27 Jun, 17 Jul in Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM). In northern Iowa, one or 2 were in *Winneshiek* (TMH), *Hancock* (DAk), *Palo Alto* (JJ, PR), *Clay* (MG, DKi), and *Dickinson* (KRe). Along the western border one or 2 were in *Lyon* (DAk, JJ, DHa), *Sioux* (DAk, JJ), *Plymouth* (MG, DKi), and *Woodbury* (GVL, DHo).

Pileated Woodpecker: Mostly singles in 37 counties west to *Webster* (m.ob., eBird). Most: 6 on 8 Jun in Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Peregrine Falcon: Most of this year's 18 nests were along the Mississippi R. Of these, 11 were successful and produced about 24 yg (Iowa DNR), somewhat fewer than totals of recent years.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Late migrants were singles 3 Jun at Stimes Woods *Worth* (CJF) and 8 Jun in *Hardin* (TSS-details).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Late migrants were singles 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk-details) and near Rock Valley *Sioux* (JJ).

Acadian Flycatcher: Mostly one or 2 in 27 counties in eastern and central Iowa (m.ob., eBird). One was at Stone SP *Woodbury* 12 Jun (DHo). Most: 11 on 7 Jul in *Allamakee* (CL),

Alder Flycatcher: Late migrants were singles 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk), 6 Jun at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DS), and 8 Jun in *Hardin* (DE).

Willow Flycatcher: Reports came from 56 counties statewide; in general, there were fewer reports from southern Iowa than from more northern counties (m.ob., eBird).

Least Flycatcher: Late migrants were singles 1 Jun at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 Jun at Round L *Clay* (MP), 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk-details), and 11 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Jackson* (EB). One 1 Jul at Gitchie Manitou S Pre *Lyon* (DHa-details) defies easy categorization.

Western Kingbird: One or 2 were in *Adair*, *Emmet*, *Fremont*, *Greene*, *Guthrie*, *Harrison*, *Lyon*, *Plymouth*, *Pottawattamie*, *Shelby*, and *Woodbury* (DAk, MP, BSc, LAS, GLV, eBird) in western Iowa where expected. One 3 Jun in Ames *Story* (WO, HZ, eBird), one 28 Jul in *Dallas* (KS), and up to 3 in Ankeny, Des Moines, and at the state fairgrounds (nest), all in *Polk* (JB, AB, HZ, eBird), continue its establishment in central Iowa. Singles 1 Jun in *Johnson* (JLF) and 13 Jun at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (TGS) were probably displaced migrants.

Loggerhead Shrike: More than most recent years. One or 2 were in *Adair*, *Butler*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Guthrie*, *Iowa*, *Louisa*, *Madison*, *Monroe*, *Plymouth*, *Ringgold*, and *Union* (m.ob., eBird). Most: 3 on 29 Jun near Weldon *Decatur* (AR).

White-eyed Vireo: All: one 1 Jun–Jul in Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 3 on 4 Jun near Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk), 2 on 5 Jun, 13, 14 Jul at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF, RGo, SD), one 8 Jun near Glenwood *Mills* (WRS), one 24 Jun, 8 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE, MP), one 24 Jun, 8 Jul at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (CRE, MP), and one 17 Jul in Thousand Acre Unit *Lucas* (TMH).

Bell's Vireo: Up to 4 were found in 33 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Most reports were of one or 2 in 51 counties scattered throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 12 on 17 Jul at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Tree Swallow: Most: 300 on 17 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (TMH).

Bank Swallow: Most: 450 on 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Tufted Titmouse: Reports came from 29 counties, all in eastern Iowa west to *Boone* except for reports from *Mills* and *Montgomery* in southwestern Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

Brown Creeper: A few were reported along the Mississippi R lowlands: 2 on 3 Jun at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (DG), 4 on 8, 27 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa* (KJM), 3 on 21 Jun, 19 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR), one 26 Jun at Upper Miss NWR *Clayton* (PDBS), and 2 on 8 Jul at Princeton M *Scott* (KJM).

Sedge Wren: Up to 16 from 56 counties all across Iowa (m.ob., eBird). They were especially abundant at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* where an estimated at least 100 were present (KVS).

Marsh Wren: Reports came from 40 counties, mainly in the northern half of Iowa but south to Waubonsie Access *Fremont* (WRS, AR) and Cone M *Louisa* (LGR, SN). A high count was 35 in several family groups 31 Jul at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Carolina Wren: More common than most summers with more than 150 reports from 33 counties south of a line from *Allamakee* to *Harrison* (m.ob., eBird).

Bewick's Wren: All: one 7 Jun was at its usual hangout near Argyle *Lee* (DTh).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Reported from 41 counties statewide; in general most commonly found in northeastern Iowa with few reports in the northwestern quarter of the state (m.ob., eBird). Most: 11 on 8 Jul at Princeton M *Scott* (KJM).

Veery: All: one 4, 9 Jun in Backbone SP *Delaware* (OW, BC), 2 on 12 Jun in *Iowa* (JF), one 19 Jun at Holst SF *Boone*



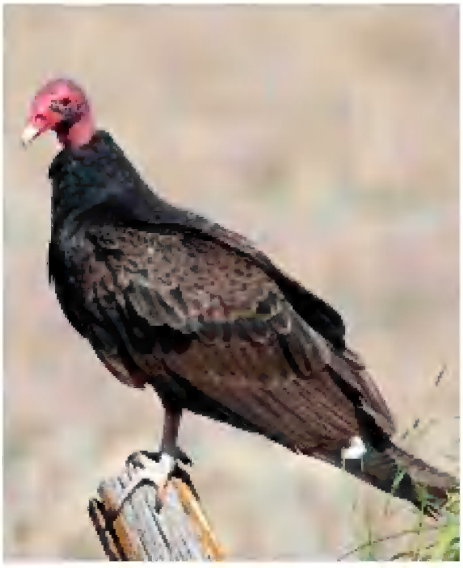
Spotted Sandpiper, Saylorville Res, Polk, *7 July 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Great Egret, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *22 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Belted Kingfisher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *15 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Turkey Vulture, Boone, *5 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ames, Story, *19 July 2017,. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Brown Thrasher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *1 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



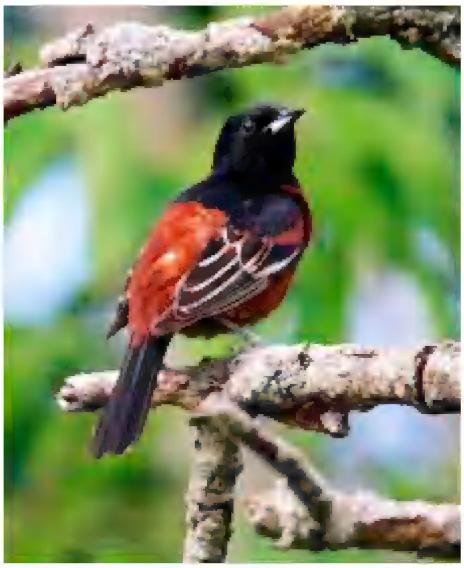
Dickcissel, Johnson, *15 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Great Crested Flycatcher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *8 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



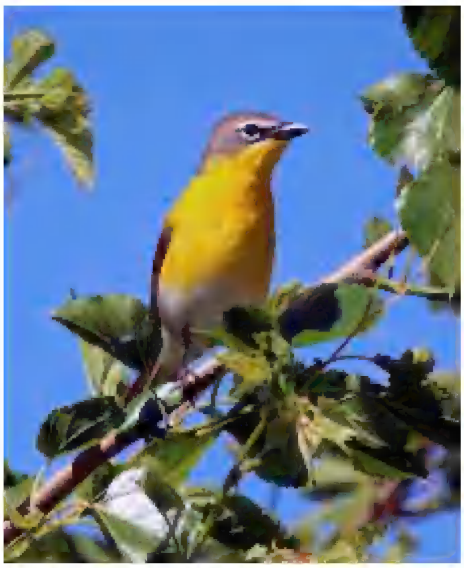
Bobolink, Boone, *20 June 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



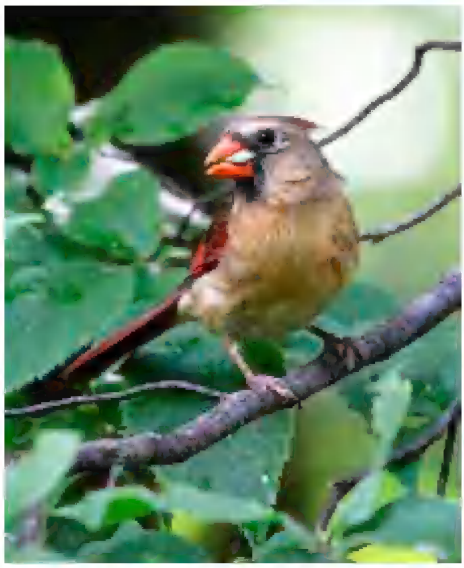
Orchard Oriole, Ledges SP, Boone, *7 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



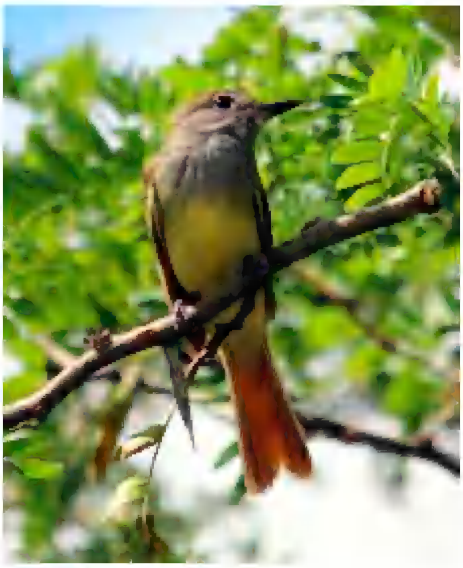
Baltimore Oriole, Boone, *21 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Yellow-breasted Chat, Saylorville Res–Lincoln Access, Polk, *5 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Northern Cardinal, Ogden, Boone, *16 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Great Crested Flycatcher, Ledges SP, Boone, *23 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *22 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Eastern Kingbird, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *8 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Yellow Warbler, Boone, *15 June 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

(DTh), and 2 on 24 Jun at Amana Woods *Iowa* (JF).

Swainson's Thrush: Last: singles 1 Jun in West Des Moines *Polk* (RJT) and 2 Jun in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Wood Thrush: Reported from 46 counties scattered throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird).

Northern Mockingbird: Up to 5 in *Adair*, *Appanoose*, *Clinton*, *Davis*, *Hardin*, *Henry*, *Iowa*, *Jackson*, *Madison*, *Marshall*, *Monroe*, *Muscatine*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Ringgold* (m.ob., eBird), all in the southern two-thirds of Iowa. Most: 10 on 8 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Cedar Waxwing: Widely reported, with more than 500 reports from 62 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 54 on 17 Jul at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reports came from *Iowa*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, *Jones*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Muscatine*, *Scott*, *Tama*, and *Washington* (m.ob., eBird), all within its established range. One 16 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (DCH) was along the western fringe of its Iowa range.

Spotted Towhee: Singles were reported in June in *Lyon* and *Sioux* with some details. With the issues related to interbreeding with Eastern Towhee in this area, more details, photos, and/or tape recordings are needed to fully document these reports.

Eastern Towhee: Reports came from 75 counties from throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 20 on 4 Jun near the Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (DAk).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Mostly one or 2 across northern Iowa in *Lyon*, *Dickinson*, *Pocahontas*, *Kossuth*, *Hancock*, *Cerro Gordo*, and *Winneshiek* (DAk, LAS, BVL, PDBS, eBird). Most: 5 on 20 Jul near Elmore *Kossuth* (DG).

Lark Sparrow: Reported from 43 counties scattered all across Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 3 ads and 12 yg 17 Jul at Chain-O-Lakes *Linn* (BSc).

Savannah Sparrow: Reported from 21 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa (eBird). Southernmost was one 1 Jun near Lovilia *Monroe* (JJ).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Up to 25 in 46 counties all across Iowa (m.ob., eBird), Most: 80 on 17 Jul at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

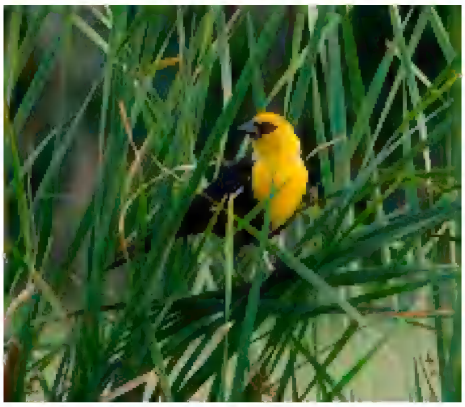
Henslow's Sparrow: Reported from 30 counties from throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). The reports of at least 200 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and ca 250 territories at Lake Sugema BCA *Van Buren* (BEh) indicate that this secretive species can be very abundant in good habitat.

Swamp Sparrow: Reported from 36 counties, mainly in the northern half of Iowa and especially in the Prairie Pothole Region where expected. One 1 Jun near Lovilia *Monroe* (JJ) was the southernmost report.

Yellow-breasted Chat: More reports than usual, mostly of one or 2 birds, and mostly in the southeastern quarter of Iowa in *Appanoose*, *Jefferson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Muscatine*, *Scott*, and *Van Buren* (m.ob.) north to *Dubuque* (TM) and west to *Monroe* and *Lucas* (TNJ, DAk, BSc), and northwest to *Jasper* and *Polk* (KVS, DTh, AB, DK). One 18 Jun in Kroger Tract *Lyon* (DAk) was far northwest of its usual Iowa range.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reports came from 27 counties, mostly from

within its usual breeding range in the Prairie Pothole Region (m.ob., eBird) but south to Forney L *Fremont* where as many as 10 were found (WRS, SQ).



Yellow-headed Blackbird, Trumbull L, Clay, *3 July 2017. Photograph by Jim Rose, Mason City, IA.*

Bobolink: Reports came from 53 counties with more in northern Iowa than further south (m.ob., eBird). The southernmost reports were from *Appanoose*, *Decatur*, and *Ringgold* (eBird) along the Missouri border.

Eastern Meadowlark: Now almost statewide in range, reports came from *Sioux*, *Woodbury*, *Monona*, *Harrison*, *Mills*, and *Fremont* (eBird) along Iowa's western border.

Western Meadowlark: The only reports from counties adjacent to the Mississippi R were singles 8, 27 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM).

Orchard Oriole: Reports came from 57 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). A flock of 12 on 31 Jul at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* (LAS) may have been southbound.

Great-tailed Grackle: Reports came mostly from a few sites where they probably nest including Dan Green Sl and Dewey's Pasture *Clay*, Forney L *Fremont*, Dunbar Sl and Snake Creek M *Greene*, Eagle Lake WA *Hancock*, De Soto NWR *Harrison*, and Black Hawk WA *Sac* (m.ob., eBird). The status of others such as one or 2 at South Twin L *Calhoun* (MP), Morse L *Wright* (RJV), and Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (RJV) is less clear. After a dramatic range expansion into Iowa in the 1980s, its range has shown little change in the last 30 years.

Ovenbird: Found in 27 counties scattered throughout Iowa including *Plymouth* and *Lyon* in the northwestern corner (m.ob., eBird). High counts were 14 on 4 Jun at Donnelson Unit *Lee* (MHB) and 12 on 17 Jun at Yellow River F *Allamakee* (EO).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Up to 3 in *Black Hawk*, *Boone*, *Decatur*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Jones*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Lucas*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, and *Van Buren* (m.ob., eBird) were within its usual range. Three birds on territory 8 Jun at Hacklebarney Woods P *Montgomery* (SS, WRS) were of interest.

Blue-winged Warbler: Mostly singles, half of about 30 reports came from Yellow River SF and Effigy Mounds NM in *Allamakee* (eBird) with others in *Clayton*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Monroe*, and *Winneshiek* (DAk, CRE, eBird).

Black-and-white Warbler: One 8 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM) was late. It is the eighth summer in the last 10 that the species has been found in Iowa.

Prothonotary Warbler: Up to 8 mainly near the Mississippi R or its major tributaries in *Allamakee*, *Benton*, *Black*

Hawk, *Clayton*, *Clinton*, *Dubuque*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, and *Scott* (m.ob., eBird). Most: 48 on 19 Jul at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Tennessee Warbler: One 1 Jun at Ledges SP *Boone* (JJ) was a late migrant.

Mourning Warbler: All: singles 1 Jun at Cone M *Louisa* (JF) and 1 Jun at L Pahoja *Lyon* (SJD) were late migrants.

Kentucky Warbler: Mostly singles from dense woodlands in *Allamakee*, *Dubuque*, *Johnson*, *Lucas*, *Monroe*, *Montgomery*, and *Muscatine* (m.ob., eBird).

Hooded Warbler: All: one 20 Jun at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

American Redstart: Birds were found in 63 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). This species probably is the third most abundant breeding warbler in Iowa. Most: 15 on 21 Jun in Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).



Yellow Warbler, Boone, *15 June 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Cerulean Warbler: Many reports were from Effigy Mounds NM and Yellow River SF in *Allamakee* (m.ob., eBird). Others were in *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, *Hardin*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Madison*, *Story*, and *Van Buren* with singles 1 Jun, 12 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (BVL, RGo, DAk) and 12 Jun at West Twin L *Hancock* (CJF) on the edge of its range.

Northern Parula: Mostly singles were found in 23 counties south and east of a line from *Winneshiek* to *Hancock* to *Fremont* (m.ob., eBird). One 25 Jun at Five Ridge Prairie *Plymouth* (DKi, MG, details) was well north of that area.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: All: singles 1 Jun at Rush L *Palo Alto* (MP) and 5 Jun at Wickiup Hill *Linn* (JF) and 2 on 7 Jun at Effigy Mounds NM *Allamakee* (GO). This species has been found in Iowa eight of the last 10 summers.

Pine Warbler: All: one 7 Jun at Farmington Unit *Lee* (DTh) and 2 on 1 Jul at Stephens SF *Lucas* (TNJ). The species has been found several times in recent years at the Farmington Unit but this appears to be the first summer report for *Lucas*.

Yellow-throated Warbler: Mostly singles at or near the Mississippi, Iowa, or Des Moines rivers in *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, *Jackson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Linn*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, *Scott*, and *Van Buren* (m.ob., ebird). One 4 Jun at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE) was away from those major rivers.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One 1–12 Jun, 1 Jul at Thousand Acre Unit *Monroe* (JLF, DAk, TNJ, eBird) was a continuing bird from spring.

Canada Warbler: All: singles 1 Jun at L Pahoja *Lyon* (SJD) and 3 Jun in Marion *Linn* (JD) were late migrants.

Summer Tanager: Mostly singles in *Audubon*, *Cherokee*, *Decatur*, *Des Moines*, *Fremont*, *Jasper*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Madison*, *Monroe*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, *Sioux*, *Van Buren*, *Washington*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob., eBird).

Scarlet Tanager: Reports came from 45 counties scattered throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 10 on 12 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (DAk).

Northern Cardinal: Despite more than 1,200 eBird reports, none were reported from *Osceola*.

Blue Grosbeak: This species' range expansion continued. Besides reports from its usual range in *Lee* in southeastern Iowa (CRE) and the western border counties (DAk, DTh, GLV, eBird), birds were reported further east in *Audubon*, *Carroll*, *Clay*, *Emmet, Osceola*, *Pocahontas*, and *Taylor* (DAk, eBird). As in recent years, a few were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Floyd*, and *Worth* in n-cent Iowa (CJF, BVL, RGo, PH), in *Johnson*, *Linn*, and *Black Hawk* in e-cent Iowa (m.ob., eBird), and in *Polk* (SJD, RJT, EO). Others were in *Lucas* in s-cent Iowa (TMH, SJD) and in *Louisa* and *Muscatine* in southeastern Iowa (KJM). Most: 10 on 17 Jul at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM).

Dickcissel: With more than 1,000 eBird reports from 90 counties, this abundant species had a good year. High counts included an estimated 200 from mid-June through July at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 60 on 8 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Louisa/Muscatine* (KJM), and 56 on a 2 Jul summer drive in *Polk* (BE).

COMMENT

A total of 164 species are covered in this report, the same total as last year and similar to the average of 161 species for summers 2012–2016. Besides the 163 included in the report, another 63 species were either reported to the IOU website, to me personally, or to eBird, making a total of 226 species found in Iowa this summer. This is similar to the 225 found in 2016 and the average of 219 over the past five years. The 63 species that were reported but not included here are mostly fairly common to abundant species that are found statewide. A number of species that usually are found somewhere in Iowa during summer were not reported this year including Greater Prairie-Chicken, Ruffed Grouse, Piping Plover, Willet (first miss in summer in 11 years), Dunlin, White-faced Ibis/ibis species, Black-billed Magpie, Worm-eating Warbler, and Pine Siskin. Several of these certainly were present but were not reported.

As has become almost an annual event, the sequence of the various groups of birds and the species within a few groups have undergone some major changes. Readers will probably first notice this when they find the cuckoos and nightjars right after the grebes and before the shorebirds rather than later in the list. Other changes put the blackbirds ahead of the warblers and grosbeaks rather than near the end of the pack. These changes will take some time to get used to but probably are not the last such changes.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Reid Allen	RIA	West Des Moines	Kelly J. McKay	KJM	Hampton, IL
Michael Aurelia	MA	eBird report	Zachary Mercer	ZM	eBird reporter
Derek Bakken	DBa	eBird reporter	Tony Moline	TM	eBird reporter
Dick Bierman	DBi	eBird reporter	Anna Nesterovich	AN	eBird reporter
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I received 1545 reports on the IOU website, about 1756 more sent to me directly, and about 46,075 eBird reports, a total of about 49,300 individual reports and easily the most material I have ever had. These reports provide the raw data that are the basis for this article. Besides the individuals listed above and others named in the article, hundreds of others provided eBird reports that are not cited directly here. I am indebted to all of you who submitted material and extend to you my sincerest thanks. This report is possible only because of all of your contributions. I am also indebted to three individuals for their assistance in sorting through all of these reports. Ann Johnson provided me with the full eBird report for Iowa and did some initial sorting of that file. Steve Dinsmore provided valuable advice on how to sort the file and Tyler Harms was able to sort the full file and provide a more condensed file that helped me immensely in trying to sift through all of those thousands of reports.

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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

11 November 2017

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall board meeting was held at Holiday Inn in Dubuque, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. Attending were Vice President Pip Fisher, Secretary Rex Rundquist, and Directors Candace Havely, Kevin Murphy, and Diane Dentlinger. Attending as guests were Ann Johnson, Cecille Thompson, and Paul Hertzel.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 2016 Board of Directors meetings have been published on the I.O.U. website. The minutes have been reviewed and revised by the Board and will be presented at the general meeting today for approval.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt was absent for health reasons. Profit/loss and balance sheet comparisons were presented by Francis Moore. Comparing balances from 31 October 2016 ($76,012) with 31 October 2017 ($81,614) shows stability in our funding; however, *Iowa Bird Life* publication costs are not included in this year's totals (see attachments). A balance due to Big Bluestem Audubon has been paid ($550).

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that we have 27 new members and 71 non-renewals. Despite this, we are currently at 421 members, which is near our average (but down from 434 members in 2016).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that we are not getting renewals from libraries due to the lack of I.O.U. publications. She did not think we should be asking for dues from the libraries since we have not had I.O.U. publications to send to them for quite a while. An extended discussion ensued of possible scenarios for future editing, review and layout of *Iowa Bird Life,* perhaps done through a team of volunteers.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel presented the minutes of the annual Records Committee face-to-face meeting. A listing of field reports from both 2016 and 2017 was presented, stressing that the vast majority of well-documented reports are accepted by the committee. A listing of pending reports for 2017 was also reviewed. Changes to the I.O.U. Checklist and Iowa Annual Status Report were presented and explained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ann Johnson reported that the majority of I.O.U. records at the Iowa State University library have been scanned. There are reportedly a few historical items to be recorded in some way.

NEW BUSINESS:

Francis Moore reported transition in several of the standing committees.

Tyler Harms has finished his term on Projects Committee. Kevin Murphy made a motion to select Coady Lundy as the new member. Candace Havely seconded. Motion carried. Rick Hollis and Paul Skrade are going off the membership committee. Diane Dentlinger made a motion to accept Cathy Konrad and Joel Haack to the Membership Committee. Pip Fisher seconded. Motion carried.

Jay Gilliam has finished his term on the Records Committee. Doug Harr has been requested to take his spot on this committee.

Francis presented the proposed Events Committee bylaws (compiled by Paul Roisen) for the board to review. Pip Fisher moved for approval. Candace Havely seconded. Motion carried.

Francis suggested having the annual budget meeting before the end of 2017. A definite date and location for a face-to-face meeting were undetermined. There was some discussion about the ongoing position of treasurer for the organization.

Francis made an appeal for two people to do a financial audit for I.O.U. for both 2015 and 2016.

The Nominating Committee will need to arrange a new slate of candidates for the coming year. Current board members with terms expiring include treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, secretary Rex Rundquist, and at large members Eric Ollie, Tyler Harms, and Candace Havely.

It was reported that I.O.U. merchandise will be available on line after the first of 2018. The Membership Committee will no longer by keeping an inventory of these items.

Pip Fisher reported that the spring 2018 meeting is in planning at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. There are meeting rooms and cafeteria service available. Since this date is after graduation, dormitory rooms at the school will be available for lodging. There was some concern about putting lodging into the I.O.U. meeting registration process, however various solutions to facilitate this were offered. The featured speaker has not yet been identified.

Sites for future meetings were discussed briefly. Suggestions included Hitchcock Nature Center, Lansing Nature Center, Jester Park, Centerville, Iowa City, and Black Hawk County.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pip Fisher and seconded by Kevin Murphy. Motion carried. The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rex W. Rundquist, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

11 November 2017

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall business meeting was held at Holiday Inn in Dubuque, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. In attendance were Vice President Pip Fisher, Secretary Rex Rundquist, Directors Diane Dentlinger, Candace Havely, and Kevin Murphy, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August and November Board of Directors meetings have been published on the I.O.U. website. Paul Skrade moved to approve the minutes as published and Maria Rundquist seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Roisen reviewed the reports presented by Mary Beth Hunt in absentia. Currently we have $81,614 in assets. Membership numbers and general fund balances appear to be stable. Publication costs for *Iowa Bird Life*

have not yet been deducted. There is an amount of $10,000 set aside for publication of the latest Breeding Bird Atlas. Paul recommended that the treasurer present end-of-year 2017 numbers at the 2018 Spring Meeting.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that our current membership total is at 421. Membership numbers are down from last year's 434. Current membership level is similar to previous years. There are 27 new members and 71 non-renewals from last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that she is still searching for a replacement for Steve Dinsmore as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported that summer 2017 reports are done; fall reports are pending. Doug Harr has agreed to replace Jay Gilliam who has finished his term on the committee.

Membership Committee: Karen Disbrow reported that I.O.U. logo apparel will soon be purchasable through Corporate Casuals. Members can order the items and sizes desired and simply request that the I.O.U. logo be included. New field cards (checklists) are yet to be printed.

Projects Committee: Joe Jungers was the only member of the committee present and had no report. Francis Moore mentioned that Coady Lundy had been approved by the board to replace Tyler Harms who is leaving the committee after completing his term. It was mentioned that new applications for funding will be due by mid-February 2018.

Library/Historical Committee: Candace Havely reported that the I.O.U. archives held at the Iowa State University Library are nearly all scanned and should become available over the internet.

Events Committee: Paul Roisen reported that events committee bylaws had been presented and approved by the board. This completes full committee status for this group. No new events were mentioned.

Communications Committee: No report. Rick Hollis is managing the Facebook page and requested photos from this meeting for posting there.

Meetings: Vice-president Pip Fisher reported that the spring 2018 meeting is currently in planning at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. There are meeting rooms and cafeteria service available. Since this date is after graduation, dormitory rooms at the school will be available for lodging. The featured speaker has not yet been identified.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Francis again made an appeal for two people to do a financial audit for I.O.U. for both 2015 and 2016.

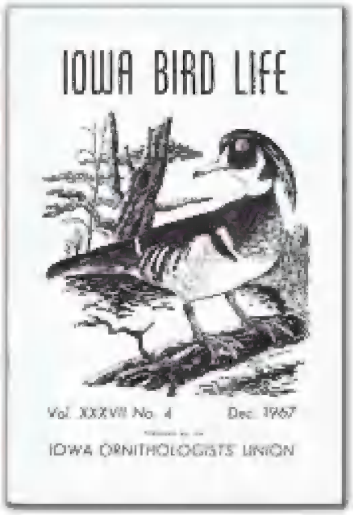
He explained that there would be no silent auction for this meeting (John Cecil is unable to attend). The silent auction will be resumed at the spring 2018 Meeting.

Stuart Sparkman moved for adjournment; seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rex W, Rundquist, Secretary

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore



The December 1967 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* mainly consists of one lengthy article on birds of the Davenport area. The article, the first of four articles by Thomas J. Morrissey, covers some of the waterfowl of the Davenport area. The author had just begun a teaching job at Guilford College in North Carolina when he died in September 1962 at the age of 38. The article is illustrated with 11 black-and-white drawings of various species of waterfowl that were done by Cedar Rapids artist E. W. Steffens. The article itself is based on extensive notes that Morrissey compiled from his observations during 1938-1950. Those notes were passed on to *IBL* Editor Peter Petersen after Morrissey's death and, with some slight editing, were the basis of the article.

The article starts with some brief comments on waterfowl, migration pathways, and waterfowl hunting in the Davenport area. The rest of the article consists of accounts on each of 12 species of geese and dabbling ducks. Each species account covers topics such as arrival and departure dates, peak counts, comments on general habits of that species, and whether it nests in the area or not. Common species like Mallard and Wood Duck get the most coverage and less is said about others like American Black Duck, Gadwall, and Green-winged Teal. Most of Morrissey's notes were made more than 70 years ago so much has changed both in the habitat available and in the populations of the various species and when they were found in the area. Canada Goose was considered a fairly common migrant but non-nesting species and Wood Duck was considered an uncommon nesting species. My general impression is that for most species, winter records were rare, something that has changed in recent years, and many areas away from the river where waterfowl were found no longer exist. However, places like Princeton Marsh, Credit Island, and Nahant Marsh, familiar to current birders, are mentioned often but I wonder what they looked like then compared to now. This article provides an interesting view of one group of birds from the mid-1900s.

The rest of the issue includes a few book reviews, one short note, and an obituary of Arthur J. Palas, a Charter Member and former President of the I.O.U. The field reports for fall 1967 indicate that other than a poor showing by shorebirds, it was a reasonably interesting migration period although no really rare birds were reported.

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Compiled by James J. Dinsmore

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UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.: Spring 2018, 18-20 May, Sioux City

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Wood Stork, Dunbar Slough, *Greene,* 29 June 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Johnson*, 28 July 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

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